PAOCTF men offer to name Dacer brains

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Killer of Filipino postman gets life

LOS ANGELES—White supremacist Buford O. Furrow was sentenced to life in prison after apologizing for killing a Filipino-American postal worker and wounding five people at a Jewish center.

"I want to try, although it is impossible, to convey my deep sorrow," the 39-year-old said Monday as he read a statement in a courtroom

KILLER/ A5

SC sacks appellate justice for meddling

By Cathy Yamsuan

THE SUPREME Court has ordered the dismissal of Court of Appeals Justice Demetrio Demetria for intervening in the case of suspected drug queen Yu Yuk Lai.

The tribunal released yesterday its en banc decision, which found Demetria guilty of violating the Code of Judicial Conduct.

The high court also ordered that all his benefits be forfeited and that he be barred from joining government service.

Interviewed on "TV Patrol" last night, Demetria, 60, said the decision came as a "complete surprise."

He has yet to decide whether to file a motion for reconsideration since it was the Supreme Court that handed down the decision.

Fourteen justices, including Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., signed the order except for Associate Justice Reynato Puno who is abroad on official business.

Demetria is the first Court of Appeals associate justice to be kicked out of service, according to court old timers.

Before joining the appeals court, Demetria was a justice undersecretary. He was appointed acting justice secretary after Teofisto Guingona left the Department of Justice to serve as executive secretary of then President Fidel V. Ramos.

In the 18-page decision, the Supreme Court said Demetria not only made "a mockery of his high office, but also (caused) incalculable damage to the entire judiciary."

"There is simply no place in the judiciary for those who cannot meet the exacting standards of judicial conduct and integrity," the tribunal said.

Demetria was charged with pressuring State Prosecutor Pablo C. Formaran III to withdraw his motion seeking Manila Judge Manuel Muro's inhibition in the Yu case.

Demetria took Formaran to task for basing his motion against Muro on an anonymous complaint filed by a group called "Concerned Court

SC/ A7

JOAN BONDOC

DEMETRIO DEMETRIA (top): Kicked out for making a "mockery of his high office" in the case of suspected drug queen, Yu Yuk Lai (above).

SEEING STARS: At the Palace, movie stars, among them, from left Anne Curtis, Rica Peralejo and Jolina Magdangal, pay a thank you call on President Macapagal on Tuesday for reducing the amusement tax by 15 percent.

JOAN BONDOC

Gloria gets zest from clean living

By Armand N. Nocum

ENOUGH sleep, taking medicines regularly and clean living—these are the secrets behind President Macapagal-Arroyo's vitality.

Ms Macapagal, who turns 54 on April 5, said she keeps fit by trying to sleep seven hours daily and taking vitamins and other pills.

"Where do I get my energy? Clean living I guess. Time management," she said during her weekly

GLORIA/ A5

Gloria confirms secret KL accord to hold talks; MILF declares truce

By Armand N. Nocum

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo confirmed yesterday that her government had signed in Malaysia an accord with Moro rebels for the holding of talks aimed at ending the fighting in Mindanao.

The separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) also agreed to suspend offensives and will form its negotiating panel shortly, according to the President.

"An accord has been signed in Kuala Lumpur. The MILF has agreed to resume the peace talks," Ms Macapagal said in a news conference when asked to comment on reports about "a secret meeting" with the MILF in Malaysia. She gave no other details.

The meeting in Malaysia was attended by presidential adviser on the peace process, Eduardo Ermita, and was shrouded with such secrecy that Jesus Dureza, the government's chief negotiator for the planned talks, said he was not aware of it.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told Agence France Presse that the preliminary talks were conducted in Kuala Lumpur from March 21 to 24.

Kabalu said the formal negotiations could begin early next month in Malaysia.

"The talks will be held most likely in Malaysia (because) it hosted the exploratory talks," Kabalu said.

On Monday, Kabalu told the Associated Press that the agreement, which was signed on Saturday, addressed conditions set by Moro rebels for renewed peace talks.

"This will now go on. We're happy about this. Who doesn't want peace?" Kabalu remarked.

The accord with the MILF was one of two major developments announced by the President yesterday

GLORIA CONFIRMS/ A17

Woman pilot did not eject to save lives

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

"EJECT! Eject! Eject!"

She never did, steering the distressed plane amid heavy rains away from populated areas northwest of Clark Field in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

This was all Capt. Ben Nasayao could remember of his instructions to his co-pilot, 1st Lt. Mary Grace Baloyo, shortly before their plane crashed Monday, according to Col. Charles Hotchkiss, deputy wing commander of the 1st Tactical Operations Wing.

The OV-10 reconnaissance and bomber aircraft burst into flames, instantly killing Baloyo but sparing the lives of more than 200 families residing 10 meters from the crash site.

Nasayao survived by ejecting. The two belonged to 15th Strike Wing based at Sangley Point in Cavite.

Baloyo, 26, a native of Bacolod City, was

WOMAN/ A17

PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

MARY GRACE BALOYO: That others may live

Witness vs Manero hiding

By Aquiles Z. Zonio,
Edwin O. Fernandez
and Allan A. Nawal
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Since Norberto Manero Jr. escaped from jail last week, witnesses to the 1985 killing of Italian priest Tullio Favali have been living in fear. One of them has gone into hiding.

This even as Manero's wife gave assurances that the convicted priest killer had no intention of getting back at those who testified against him.

Leonardo Deocadiz, the star witness in the Favali killing in Barangay La Esperanza, Tulunan, North Cotabato, was forced to once more go into hiding after Manero escaped from the Sarangani Provincial Jail on March 22.

Deocadiz said that unless Manero is recaptured, his safety and that of other people who helped in the killer's conviction are always at risk.

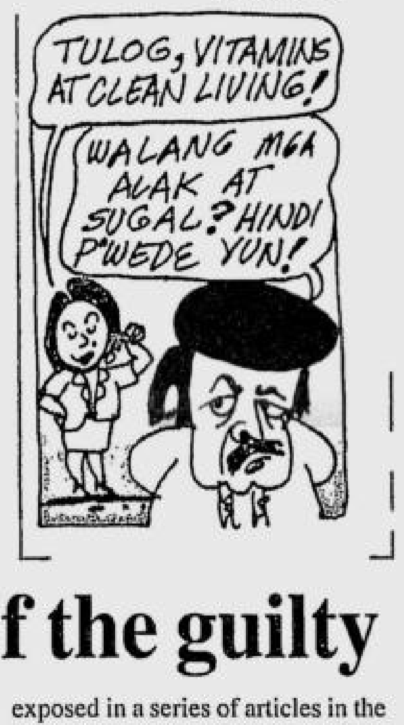
"I am sure he would take revenge," Deocadiz said.

Carolina Gomez, the wife of another witness, Domingo Gomez, said Manero's escape had a "chilling effect" on them.

"We're not taking it easy because we are certain he is just around," Gomez told Kidapawan City-based radio dxND.

She urged the government to exhaust all means to arrest Manero at the soonest time possible. "We al-

WITNESS/ A6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WALANG MGA ALAK AT SUGAL? HINDI P'WEDE YUN!

Chavez: Araneta threat strategy of the guilty

By Donna S. Cueto

"THIS is the strategy of the guilty," former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez said of the suit that the lawyer of Irene and Gregorio Araneta plans to file against Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi.

"*Walanghiya! Yung may kasalanan pa ang nagagalit!* They hide their misdeed with a façade of indignation," he said. (They're shameless. The ones who are guilty are the ones enraged)

"I dare the lawyer of Irene Araneta's group to go ahead and file whatever case they have to file so we'll have a venue here in the Philippines to underscore the rottenness of their venalities," said Chavez, who had believed in the revelations made by Jacobi in 1999 on the $13.2-billion Araneta accounts at Union Bank of Switzerland, which had been exposed in the Inquirer.

Jacobi himself dared the Aranetas to "go ahead" with the suit.

"They're mad. I did not help them transfer their money with a 'dirty banker' and instead notified the bank authorities," Jacobi said.

Like Chavez, Jacobi welcomed the suit in a US or a Philippine court so that, "we can bring about the legitimacy of this investigation to the fore," said Jacobi who phoned the Inquirer from Europe.

The Aranetas' lawyer, Eleazar Reyes, threatened to sue Jacobi on Tuesday after the Australian had exposed in a series of articles in the Inquirer the alleged attempt of the couple to launder their funds from the Union Bank of Switzerland to Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Describing the Aranetas' move as "foolish," Jacobi said this would give him the opportunity to bring to the attention of the American and Philippine courts "what happened from day one"—meaning the day he was hired in 1988 by the

CHAVEZ/ A17

Second FRONT PAGE

KANTAHAN NA !!!

No pardon for Rowe killers, US pleads

WASHINGTON has reiterated its call for President Macapagal-Arroyo not to include two former New People's Army sparrow unit members responsible for the assassination of a US military official among the political prisoners she plans to pardon under her government's peace initiative with the communist side.

In a courtesy call in Malacañang, former US ambassador to the Philippines Thomas Hubbard, now the US Assistant Secretary of State for Asia Pacific, reiterated Washington's plea that Donato Continente and Juanito Itaas be excluded from the growing list of political detainees that the Macapagal-Arroyo administration has released from detention.

Col. James Rowe was assassinated by Continente and Itaas in 1989. Rowe's Filipino driver was seriously wounded in the attack. *Rocky Nazareno*

PAOCTF men offered to tag Dacer case mastermind–NBI

By Michael Ubac

SOME members of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force will turn state witness to identify the mastermind behind the abduction of Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation disclosed yesterday.

Wycoco said the PAOCTF members were willing to squeal and unmask the brains behind the Nov. 24 abduction of the public relations practitioner.

The NBI chief, however, refused to name names.

"It is sufficient to say at this point that the PAOCTF men who contacted us have showed willingness to cooperate in solving the Dacer case," said Wycoco during a press conference.

Wycoco said the information was relayed to him through agents of the NBI-National Capital Region, who were contacted by the PAOCTF men last week.

"We desperately need this new development to pinpoint the mastermind. I hope this will prosper," he added as he revealed that his men were holding talks with the PAOCTF men.

It was not, however, clear whether the PAOCTF men were the same ones charged with the Department of Justice last month by the NBI in connection with a raid on a house near Dacer's home on Marigold Street, Sun Valley Subdivision in Parañaque City.

The raid, which occurred three days before the abduction, could have been a cover for an extensive surveillance on Dacer and his family, according to the NBI.

An NBI insider said the unidentified PAOCTF men were among those who were privy to the planning and execution of the abduction.

"They could either have a direct hand in the abduction or they were part of those who plotted it," the insider said.

But Wycoco refused to comment if SPO3 Marino Soberano was among them.

Soberano became the first policeman to be directly linked to the Dacer abduction after Wycoco charged him with kidnapping with the DOJ early this month. Witnesses positively identified Soberano as one of the armed men who abducted Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito, on South Superhighway in Manila.

WYCOCO

Aside from Soberano, Police Insp. Wilson Pedido, the team leader of the PAOCTF operatives who conducted the raid, was also charged with obstruction of justice for allegedly "suppressing" evidence.

Earlier NBI-chief Samuel Ong, which is spearheading the probe, admitted to reporters that the agency could not solve the case without the cooperation of the PAOCTF members themselves.

"We will never identify the masterminds in this case if nobody among the abductors will come out and identify them," he said.

Ping defends his men linked to abduction

By Dona Pazzibugan

LACSON

FORMER police chief and senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson yesterday defended his men with the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force who are being linked to the disappearance of Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito.

Lacson, who is running under the pro-Estrada Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa, claimed his men were wrongly accused of kidnapping and killing the top-notch public relations practitioner and his driver.

It was the first time that Lacson, who was concurrent PAOCTF chief during his stint as PNP chief, came to the defense of his men since the National Bureau of Investigation began its probe. He earlier tried to distance himself from the Dacer affair by claiming he did not know the PAOCTF members who were being investigated by the NBI.

"Yes, they are being unfairly charged because the basis for the charges is I think... tenuous," Lacson told a group of select reporters in a news conference in Ortigas, Mandaluyong City yesterday.

Lacson said the NBI was only able to link his men to the Dacer abduction on the basis of the raid they allegedly staged in a house near Dacer's residence in Paranaque.

"It doesn't make sense to me that I will conduct surveillance by creating a commotion. If that's the basis, I think that's tenuous," Lacson said.

The NBI has already filed charges of kidnapping against PAOCTF Visayas agent SPO4 Marino Soberano.

NBI National Capital Region chief Samuel Ong said Soberano was positively identified by at least two witnesses as one of the armed men who stopped and commandeered Dacer's Revo van on South Superhighway in Manila on Nov. 24.

Lacson earlier said he did not know who Soberano was, after reports came out that he might be taken as a state witness.

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Ban on 'Live Show' declared final after GMA watches 'soft-core' porn

By Donna S. Cueto

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared as final the ban on the sex-oriented movie, "Live Show," preempting whatever recommendations the Appeals Committee, which reviewed the film late Monday, intends to make.

"I believe it is time that we view the controversy on sex-oriented films in perspective," the President said.

"The prohibition of 'Live Show' is not just an issue of whether to allow the showing of this film or not. More importantly, it is about being conscious of our responsibilities even as we exercise our rights," the President explained.

Yesterday, apparently to appease the movie industry, the President announced that amusement taxes in Metro Manila would be cut by half—from the present 30 percent to just 15 percent.

The President said that she has seen "Live Show" and found it pornographic.

"Yes, I have watched it. It is a well-made soft-core pornographic film. That's what I think about it," she said in a press conference.

Even though the Appeals Committee, headed by her spokesperson and chief of staff, Renato Corona, has yet to submit its recommendation, she said the ban on the movie would stay.

The President said that freedom of speech and of the press did not give a "license to say or do anything offensive to others."

The ban was in accordance with the constitutional mandate for government to "promote the common good, conserve and develop our patrimony," she said.

Corona, who refused to say what he thought of the film, said the committee would submit its recommendation to the President before Friday.

Ms Macapagal said the reduction of the amusement tax would go a long way toward "(easing) the burden of the producers who will now have ways of coming out with quality films."

She said it was the previous "onerous taxation" that had created a "fertile ground for movies which cater to the sexual or sensual."

"The producer recovers his money faster by producing bold films," she said.

She also ordered a clampdown on "video piracy," which she said would soon "toll the death knell for the Filipino movie industry."

"We will go after the pirates and we will hunt and destroy them," the President vowed.

Ms Macapagal said that her dream was to make the Philippine movie industry globally competitive, a "major force in world cinema" that respects the "accepted social mores and spiritual standards of society."

The President claimed yesterday that "90 percent of the producers of the Philippine movie industry" were represented in the press forum yesterday. But the only major producer who was there was Viva Films' Vic del Rosario.

RP wary on allied military exercise

THE PHILIPPINE government is keeping its options open on whether or not to accept a proposal by the United States to join multilateral military exercises with Australia, Thailand and Singapore.

"We are sensitive to China's concern," admitted Foreign Undersecretary Lauro L. Baja Jr. as he noted that the decision to reject the US proposal may have been influenced by a recent diplomatic dispute with China over the Scarborough Shoal.

China had earlier expressed grave concern over the boarding of 10 Chinese fishing vessels by Philippine Navy personnel while these were anchored off Scarborough island.

Personnel of the BRP Quezon confiscated thousands of endangered giant clams as well as fishing implements. But no arrests were made.

A week later, the Chinese government raised alarm over the conduct of a trilateral search-and-rescue exercises by the Philippine Navy, US Navy and Royal Thai Navy off the west coast of Luzon.

Given these run-ins with the Chinese government, Baja said joining the multilateral military exercises with the US, Thailand, Singapore and Australia may only exacerbate matters.

Dubbed the "Team Challenge," the US initiative sought to involve some of its allied countries in the region—the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Australia—in a large-scale military exercise.

The US wanted the forthcoming 2nd Balikatan 2001 exercises, which is covered by the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty, included in Team Challenge.

The Balikatan exercises would have been the staging point for the US troops to move on to the other countries (Thailand, Singapore and Australia) for their own exercises with the respective troops from these countries.

"We don't know what the implication of this proposed multilateral exercise would," Baja admitted.

"Under the Mutual Defense Treaty, the Philippines is obliged to hold military exercises with the US," he said. "But doing it with other countries is something else."

And in a bid to show China that the military exercises between the Philippines and US was not directed at it, Baja said the Philippine government has sent an invitation to the Chinese to observe the Balikatan.

Rocky Nazareno

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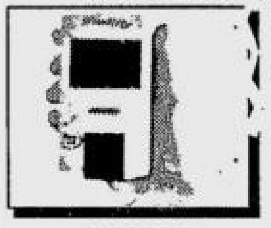

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‘Support role’ for AFP in anti-kidnap drive

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

MALACAÑANG yesterday assured that the military's role in the anti-kidnapping campaign would be mostly limited to intelligence-gathering and to that of a supplementary force to the police.

At the same time, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday confirmed that she plans to disband the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

For now, the PAOCTF would be "redefined," she said.

"Eventually, maybe we can deactivate it next year," she said at a press briefing.

In a major anti-crime drive, the government announced the other day the creation of an inter-agency task force to fight kidnap-for-ransom and drug syndicates.

The new body would combine the anti-crime efforts of the Armed Forces, the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

During the briefing, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the military would only play a "support role" in the fight against kidnapping and drug syndicates.

"That has always been the role of the Armed Forces, to support the law-enforcement agencies in their fight against criminality," he said.

But he stressed that the military's support "will primarily be in the area of intelligence."

Reyes said the AFP already has intelligence operatives all over the country focusing on threats to national security.

"Now, all we have to do is to direct them to focus more attention, more resources, more time on gathering intelligence against criminals and this we will be fed to the police and the National Bureau of Investigation," he said.

But the arrest of suspected kidnappers and their prosecution "is the province of the police and the NBI and we are not going to go into those areas."

In the same briefing, Interior Secretary Joey Lina also said the "military will not supplant the police in the anti-crime campaign."

He said the powers of the military will be clearly spelled out and defined in a memorandum of agreement.

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Miriam slams ‘bogus rallies’

REELECTIONIST Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday branded pickets staged by militant groups against her as "bogus rallies" organized by her political enemies in order to dampen her chances in the May 14 polls.

Santiago, who is running under the pro-Estrada Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa, yesterday said her "political opponents have resorted to organizing bogus rallies" to discredit her.

"We should put an end to the tradition of dirty politics. It is hypocritical for certain groups to espouse new politics and engage in dirty politics at the same time," Santiago said in a statement issued yesterday.

Santiago, however, did not say which groups are behind the alleged dirty tactics campaign against her.

Her statement came on the heels of the latest picket staged by militant groups in front of her house in Quezon City.

Some 20 members of the Sosyalistang Kilusang Manggagawa staged the picket Monday morning in line with their campaign against traditional politicians "trapos" running in May 14 polls.

They were however dispersed by an unidentified member of her household, who shouted obscenities at the protesters and tried to grab some of their placards.

Santiago did not make mention of the incident in her statement.

She instead claimed that she is the "leading opposition senatorial candidate" based on the "overwhelming support" she received during the opposition's sorties in Laguna and Cavite last week.

Stop manipulation of consumers–JPE

SEN. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday expressed serious concern over attempts by water concessionaire Maynilad to automatically increase rates to consumers and effectively change its contract terms with the participation of former Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) chair Rex Tantiongco as regulator of water utilities in Metro Manila.

"It is happening again. The Lopez-controlled Meralco was able to make consumers pay for overpriced electricity and their income taxes under then ERB chairman Rex Tantiongco. Now the same official has been reported by the Freedom from Debt Coalition to be behind the moves to change the Lopez-owned Maynilad contract to more favorable, lucrative terms," Enrile said.

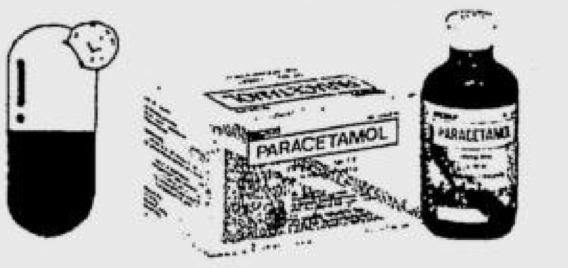
"This is not a coincidence but a crude manipulation and travesty of the laws governing the state's regulatory power to protect consumers against undue exploitation of public utility companies like Meralco and Maynilad for Rex Tantiongco to again end up being the regulator of a public utility owned by the Lopezes," Enrile said.

Enrile said he fully supports the call of the FDC to review the Maynilad contract and insure that no alterations are made from the original terms of the bidding as this would be unfair to other bidders.

Enrile asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to reassess whether the retention of Tantiongco as MWSS regulator serves the public interest given his apparent cozy relationship with the Lopezes.

He said it was during the term of Tantiongco as ERB chairman that the Return-on-Rate (RORB) abuses of Meralco were given official blessing.

Enrile said it is common knowledge in Congress and in government agencies involved in the energy sector that Tantiongco served as Meralco consultant after leaving the ERB and was also an active lobbyist for the giant power firm in the House version of the Omnibus Power Act.



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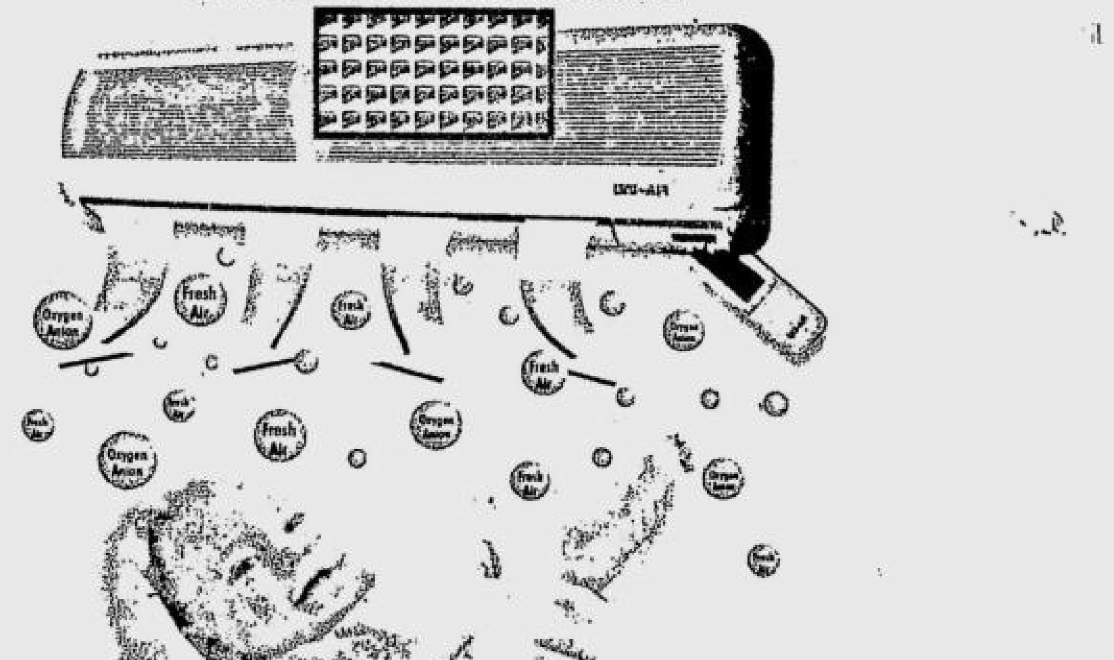

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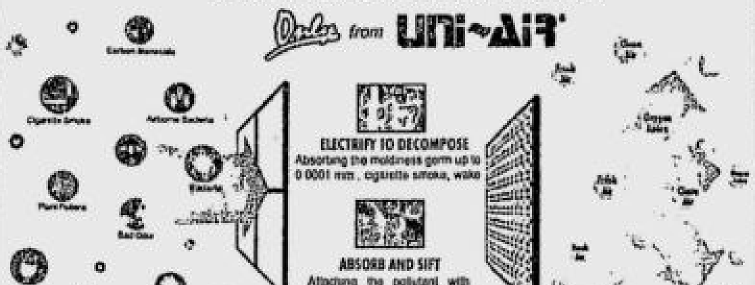
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Killer of Filipino postman gets life

(From page A1)

filled with sobbing victims of his 1999 shooting rampage and their relatives.

"I think about what happened every day and I will grieve for it every day for the rest of my life," he said.

US District Judge Nora Manella imposed two life sentences without possibility of parole, plus 110 years in prison and payment of $690,294 in restitution.

Furrow blamed mental illness, saying he wished he had been confined to a mental hospital to which he tried to commit himself before the shootings.

He insisted he did not harbor hatred for his victims because of race or religion.

"I'm sorry for how I traumatized your lives," he said to families in the courtroom. "I would give anything for this not to have happened."

Furrow stormed into the North Valley Jewish Community Center on Aug. 10, 1999, and raked it with gunfire, wounding three boys, a teenage girl and a woman. He then headed into the San Fernando Valley neighborhood and killed Filipino-American mailman Joseph Ileto.

In a plea bargain, Furrow pleaded guilty in January to 16 federal charges. The slaying of Ileto was a federal offense because he was a government employee.

Furrow fired more than 70 bullets into the Jewish center, which was packed with children attending day programs. Ileto, killed hours later, was shot nine times.

Furrow surrendered in Las Vegas the next day, declaring he had intended to send a "wake-up call to America to kill Jews."

"Your actions were a reminder that bigotry is alive," the judge said Monday. "If you've sent a message, it is that even the most violent crimes can strengthen a community."

Furrow sat at the counsel table, his hands and feet shackled, and appeared a pale and docile figure, shrunken from the swaggering, hate-filled man who first faced the court 19 months ago.

His remarks were followed by emotional speeches from survivors and victims' families. The most anguished was Mindy Finkelstein, who was a 16-year-old camp counselor at the center.

"I've been to hell and back," she told the judge. "Buford Furrow tried to kill me and he failed. But in a way he succeeded."

The mother, brother and sisters of Ileto described the devastating loss to their loved one.

"Sometimes I hope this was just a nightmare and my son will come to the front door," said Lillian Santos Ileto. "But I'm afraid it's not so. I will never get over the loss of my son."

Furrow, of Olympia, Washington, had a history of involvement with anti-Semitic groups in the Pacific Northwest, among them the Aryan Nations.

He also had a history of mental problems and had tried to get help without success, his lawyers said when they argued to spare his life. *AP*

Gloria gets zest from clean living

(From page A1)

news conference.

"I try to get seven hours of sleep a day because they said that if you want your creative faculties to work fully, as well as your analytical faculties, you should have seven hours of sleep a day," Ms Macapagal said.

"Last night, I went to sleep at 10 and woke up at 7," she said.

"Also, I take my vitamins, my calcium, my post-menopausal medicine religiously," she added with a laugh.

Newsmen covering the presidential palace have wondered where Ms Macapagal gets the energy for her official appointments that average eight per day. Her hectic schedule has left older reporters exhausted. Some joked that she was probably running on Energizer batteries.

"I take off on Sundays. I have to discipline myself to rest once a week," the President said.

She said she plays golf and watches movies during her free time.

"I try to watch every week. And one time, there was a movie that didn't look good enough on the small (television screen), so I had to go to the theater to watch it," she said.

The movie was "Hannibal," the suspense-thriller starring Anthony Hopkins, who plays the fearsome and enigmatic Hannibal Lecter.

Ms Macapagal earlier said she had lost 15 pounds since becoming president. She did not say how much she weighed now.

As to her birthday plans, she said she might spend it in her hometown in Pampanga where she usually attends Mass. She will also be attending an event in Clark Field and will later inaugurate a bridge for poor communities in the area. *With an AP report*

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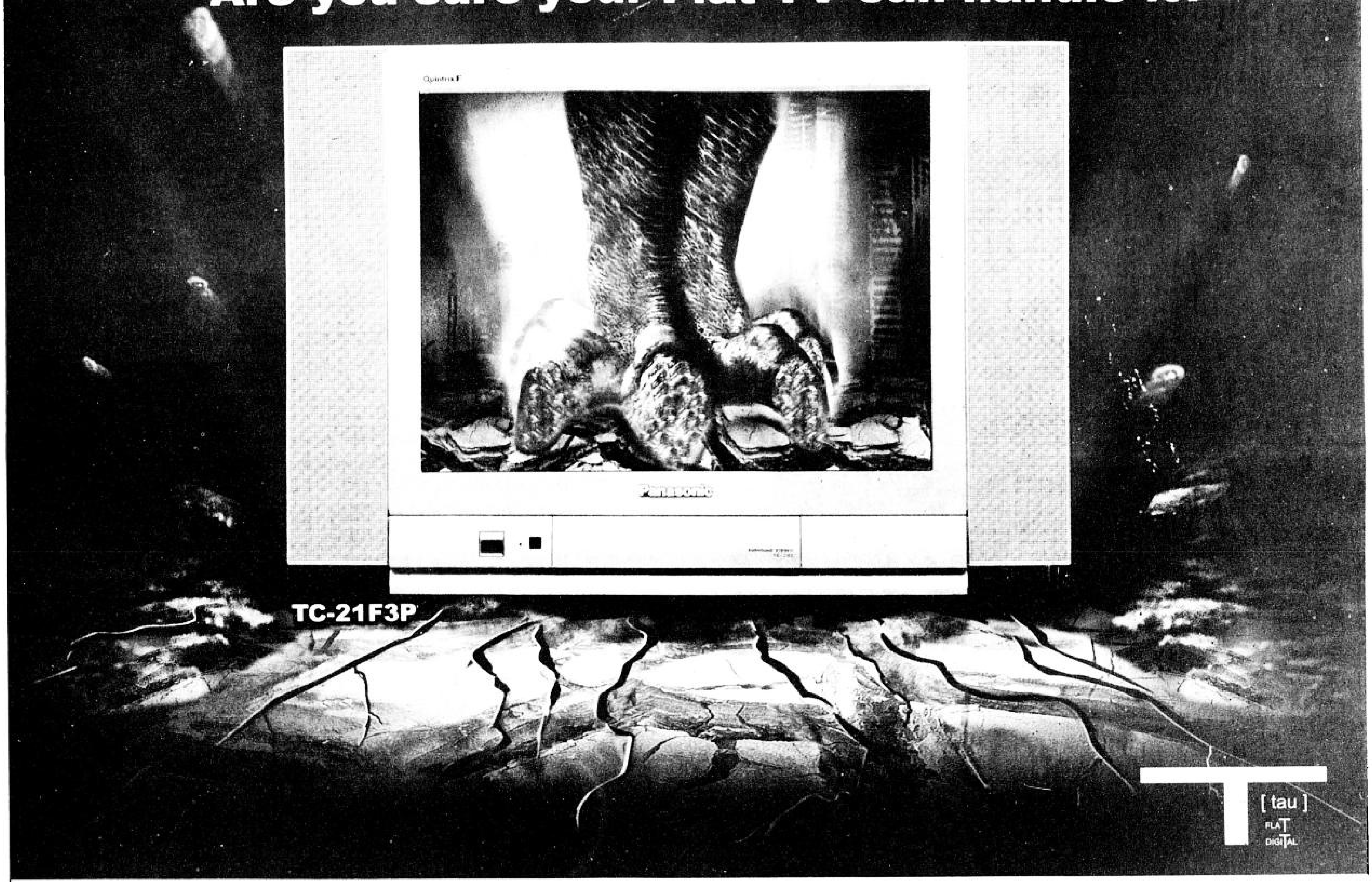

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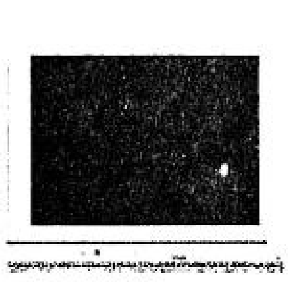

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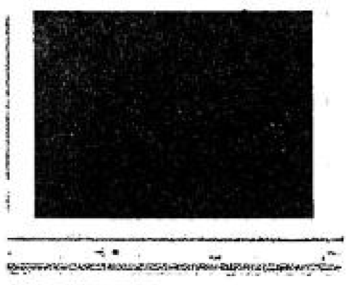

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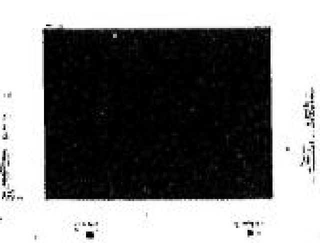

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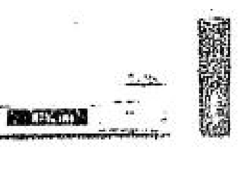

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Witness vs Manero hiding

(From page A1)

ready suffered enough when my husband testified. We want to live a normal life but we will never be able to do this unless (Manero) is brought back to jail," she said.

"We urge the police here in Tulunan to closely monitor the entry and exit of all people, day in, day out," she added.

Changed man

But Julie Yee, who claimed to be Manero's legal wife, denied reports that Manero, alias Commander Bucay, was plotting to get back at the witnesses. She claimed that her husband just wanted speedy justice and a peaceful life.

"Commander Bucay is a changed man. He has no plans to retaliate against those who testified and filed cases against him. What he's demanding is just a speedy trial for his kidnapping with double murder case and a peaceful life," Yee told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

She said it was not true that Manero threatened to kill Sarangani provincial prosecutor Laureano Alzate and Regional Trial Court Branch 38 Judge Jaime Infante as had been reported.

"My husband never said that," Yee said.

Rafael Manero said his brother had long forgiven those who tormented him and like everybody else, all he wanted was to live a normal life.

"He thought he could already do that (live normal life) after the pardon granted by President Joseph Estrada. But what happened? There are people who wanted to prevent him from doing so by trumping up charges," Rafael said.

Rafael, however, was quick to deny any knowledge of his brother's whereabouts.

Yee also said she did not know where Manero was and said that he only kept in touch with her through cellular phone.

She said Manero has not yet reacted to the government's announcement that it will not negotiate with the wanted man. She, however, appealed for the government to hear her husband's plea, adding that his demand for the restoration of his conditional pardon was "reasonable."

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez on Monday rejected the four conditions Manero had set for his surrender. Perez had said that the government could not give in to the demands of an escaped convict.

Yee said her husband had suffered long enough and that there was no witness in the kidnapping and double murder case filed against him.

Manero, 55, was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Favali and several more years in prison for attempted murder, arson and evasion of service of sentence. In December 1999, he was granted conditional pardon by then President Estrada but this was revoked two months later due to public outrage and after authorities discovered a pending kidnapping with double murder case against him.

"*Wala naman talagang kaso e. Kasi nag-withdraw na nga yong main witness na kapatid ng mga Mamalumpong* (There was really no case. The main witness, the sister of the Mamalumpongs, withdrew)," Yee said.

Johanna Mamalumpong, younger sister of kidnap and slay victims Ali and Mambatawan Mamalumpong, retracted her testimony against Manero last December.

Yee refused to grant a long interview, afraid that government authorities running after her would be able to trace her whereabouts.

Legitimate wife

She also asked reporters to stop calling her Manero's common-law wife.

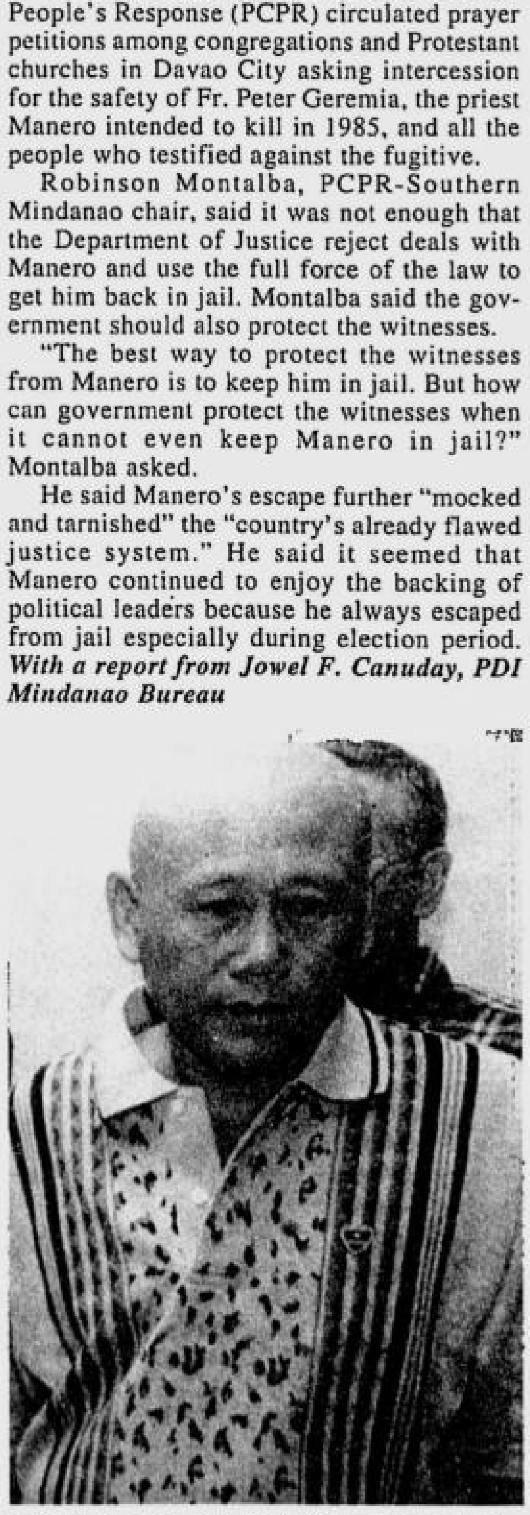
"I am his legal and legitimate wife. So I am appealing to reporters to rectify that error," she said.

The Church group Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) circulated prayer petitions among congregations and Protestant churches in Davao City asking intercession for the safety of Fr. Peter Geremia, the priest Manero intended to kill in 1985, and all the people who testified against the fugitive.

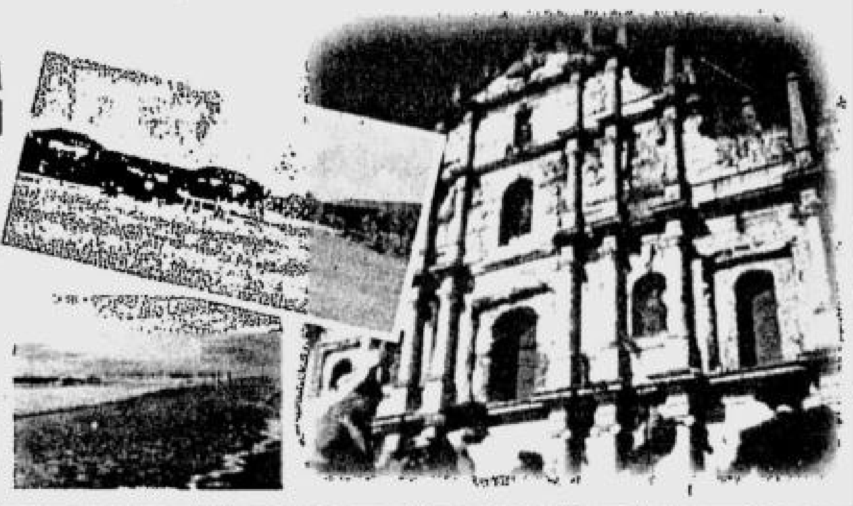
Robinson Montalba, PCPR-Southern Mindanao chair, said it was not enough that the Department of Justice reject deals with Manero and use the full force of the law to get him back in jail. Montalba said the government should also protect the witnesses.

"The best way to protect the witnesses from Manero is to keep him in jail. But how can government protect the witnesses when it cannot even keep Manero in jail?" Montalba asked.

He said Manero's escape further "mocked and tarnished" the "country's already flawed justice system." He said it seemed that Manero continued to enjoy the backing of political leaders because he always escaped from jail especially during election period. ***With a report from Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



MANERO claims he wants to live a normal life.



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SC sacks appellate justice for meddling

(From page A1)

GO TENG KOK: A friend of the suspect.

Employees." The group, which was based at the Manila Regional Trial Court, said that the judge was allegedly partial to Yu.

The group alleged that Muro had allowed Yu's lengthy hospital confinement on several occasions. It turned out that Yu played baccarat in at least two branches of Casino Filipino instead of staying at a hospital.

Three kilos of shabu

Muro was supposed to try Yu and his alleged nephew Kenneth Monceda for drug trafficking, a non-bailable offense. The two were arrested while reportedly delivering three kilos of shabu to a buyer.

Demetria last night maintained that Yu had been framed by narcotics operatives of the Philippine National Police and had been subjected to trial by publicity.

He said the shabu purportedly recovered from Yu was retrieved from "a red car owned by a Narcom agent."

When the scandal about Demetria's links with Yu broke out, newspapers initially refused to name the "justice," who allegedly interfered with the case on behalf of the suspected drug queen.

It took an order from Davide before Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño identified Demetria as the one who had interfered on Yu's behalf.

"The mere mention of (Demetria's) name in the national newspapers, allegedly lawyering for a suspected drug queen and interfering with her prosecution, seriously undermined the integrity of the entire judiciary," the Supreme Court said.

Go Teng Kok

The high court established that on July 18, 2000, Demetria accompanied Yu's alleged boyfriend, Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association head Go Teng Kok, to Formaran's office to ask the prosecutor to withdraw his motion against Muro.

With the two was Go's lawyer, Reinerio Paas, said to be Demetria's close friend.

Go initially pleaded with Formaran to withdraw his motion for Muro's inhibition, saying that it would delay the resolution of the case.

Go also voiced fears that a new judge might convict his alleged girlfriend, the court noted.

Demetria then asked about the status of the case and warned Formaran about the dangers of basing his move on an anonymous letter of court employees.

Sensing that Formaran was not willing to cooperate, Demetria later that day telephoned Chief State Prosecutor Zuño to ask him to instruct Formaran to withdraw the motion.

"*Pakisabi mo nga kay* State Prosecutor Formaran *na* i-withdraw *na 'yong kanyang* motion to inhibit *para naman makagawa na ng* order *si* Judge Muro," Demetria was quoted as telling Zuño.

Two days later, the Department of Justice received Muro's order stating his decision to inhibit himself from Yu's case.

In his response, Demetria maintained that his presence in Formaran's office was not a form of intervention.

Rather, Demetria said he only admonished Go to "cool it (off)" when the discussion with Formaran about the case of Go's alleged lover became heated.

Demetria added that his act of asking Formaran about the status of Yu's case "demonstrated his lack of knowledge about the case."

The dismissed justice described as hearsay Zuño's identification of him as the justice who exerted undue pressure on the justice department.

Demetria explained that it was not possible for him to ask Formaran, whom he just met for the first time, to do something for Go.

Demetria said it was also the first that he met Go.

The court of appeals justice insisted that he did not know Yu, a claim that the accused herself corroborated.

The Supreme Court noted that Demetria's close friend, Paas, had claimed that he was the one who called Zuño's office after the justice had visited Formaran.

"While Justice Demetria vehemently denied interfering with the criminal case, his denial cannot stand against the positive assertions of Zuño and Formaran which are consistent with natural human experience," the high court said.

While Paas claimed to have called Zuño after the meeting, the Supreme Court said the call was indeed a "logical follow-up" to the incident.

"And no one could have made the call except (Demetria) since it is not uncommon for anyone to believe that Zuño would recognize (the) voice (of Demetria), who was Zuño's former superior in the DOJ," the court said.

Demetria's confident request to Zuño, "could not have come from anyone else but from respondent justice who had moral ascendancy over Zuño, he being a justice of the Court of Appeals and a former undersecretary and at one time acting secretary of the DOJ," the tribunal said.

Subtle pressure

While the Supreme Court recognized that Demetria himself did not ask Formaran directly to withdraw the motion against Muro, his act of asking the prosecutor to "do something to help Mr. Go Teng Kok" was already a subtle pressure on Formaran.

The tribunal then junked Demetria's claim that the real reason he was at the Department of Justice was to visit then Secretary Artemio Tuquero and to seek assistance for the appointment of Paas to the appeals court.

"In sum, we find the testimonies of the prosecution witnesses convincing and trustworthy, as compared to those of the defense which do not only defy natural human experience but are also riddled with major inconsistencies," the court said.

"The conduct and behavior of everyone connected with an office charged with the dispensation of justice is circumscribed with the heavy burden of responsibility.

"Unfortunately, respondent Justice Demetrio Demetria failed to live up to this expectation," the Supreme Court said.

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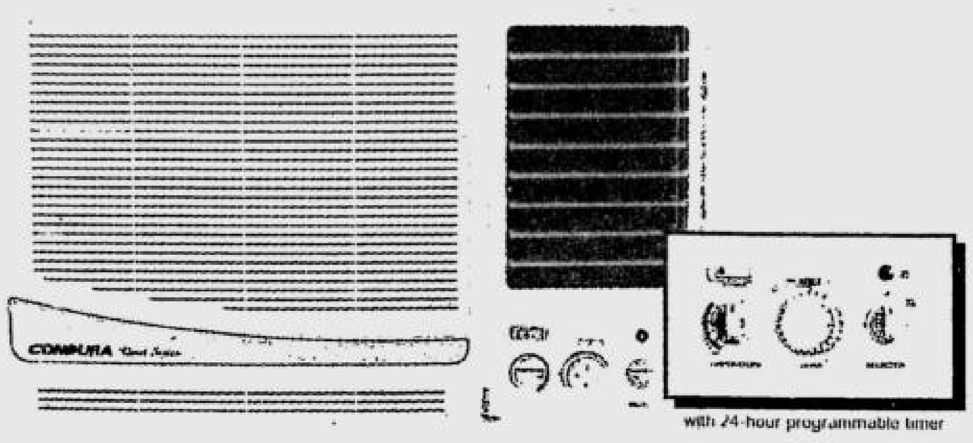

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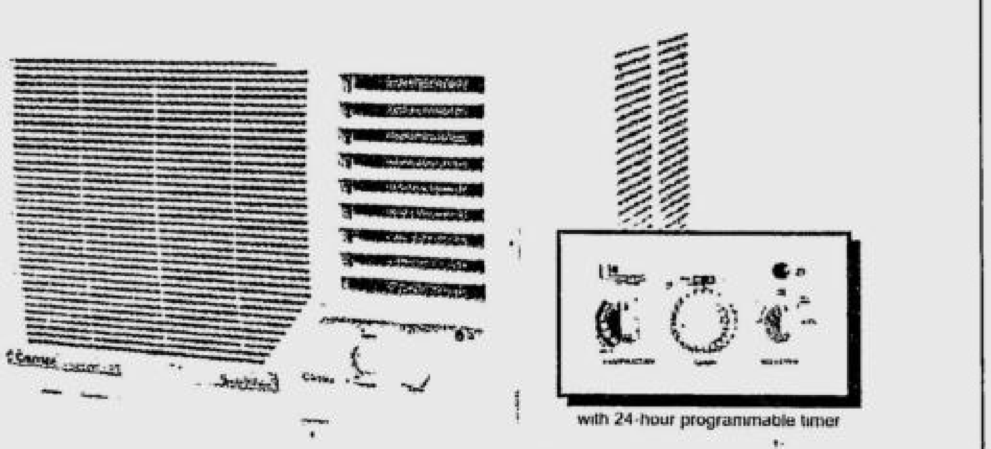

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The last honest man

EDITORIAL

JOSEPH Estrada probably thinks of himself as a modern-day reincarnation of Diogenes. If as president he couldn't find a single honest man among his political foes and critics in media, now he can't find such a man even among his friends or, more accurately, his former friends.

When he was still in Malacañang, Estrada used to dismiss as nothing but lies every unfavorable story about himself or his administration. And so convinced was he about his own credibility that he seldom bothered to explain where, how or why his critics were wrong, whether they were talking about his feasting, boozing and womanizing, his administration's lack of direction, the deterioration of economic conditions, the corruption in government, the accumulation of fabulous mansions by his mistresses or the funny deals involving his cronies and members of his family.

Now, after being driven out of office by People Power II mainly because of plunder and other corrupt practices, Estrada has not changed his standard response. Anything damning found or said about him or his family can only be a lie, he insists.

In the latest episode where Estrada pits his credibility against that of others, the stakes couldn't be any higher. He is trying to wiggle out of a very sticky situation that could cost him not only his freedom but even his life. Once the Supreme Court lifts its temporary restraining order, the Office of the Ombudsman will file a case charging Estrada with plunder for accepting P189.7 million in kickbacks from the purchase of Belle Corp. shares by the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System. Plunder is classified as a heinous crime punishable with death.

In sworn statements, former GSIS President Federico Pascual and former SSS President Carlos Arellano detailed how they were pressured by Estrada to buy some 592 million Belle shares worth P1.84 billion in 1998. Willy Ocier, Belle vice chair, also testified that he issued a check for P189.7 million and handed it to Jaime Dichaves, who in turn delivered it to then President Estrada. Mark Jimenez, a former crony of whom Estrada once described as a "corporate genius," also testified that he had facilitated both the purchase of stocks and the payoff to Estrada. The check was traced to the account of Jose Velarde in Equitable PCI Bank, which actually belonged to Estrada, according to bank officials.

The Belle bribery case is the eighth plunder case being prepared by the government against Estrada. But it looks like the most solid and strongest case so far, given the kind of witnesses the state has and the details they were able to supply. Only Dichaves among the many personalities involved has not corroborated the story, but his testimony may not be necessary to sew up the case against Estrada.

Confronted with the accusation of old friends and business cronies, Estrada has again fallen back on his old line of defense. In an 11-page counteraffidavit he submitted to the Ombudsman, Estrada said the four witnesses lied when they testified that he had received any commission from the transactions. Those stock purchases were aboveboard and decided by the appropriate committees, he said. "There is not a single piece of evidence which will support this case, save for the bare allegations made by people whose motives...are suspicious in nature at best."

That is, of course, for the courts to decide. And right now it is Estrada's word against that of four of his closest friends and some of his top financial managers. Estrada probably thinks he is the last honest man standing in the whole nation. But it remains to be seen whether he can convince the justices of the Sandiganbayan about that.

Poor Bill Gates

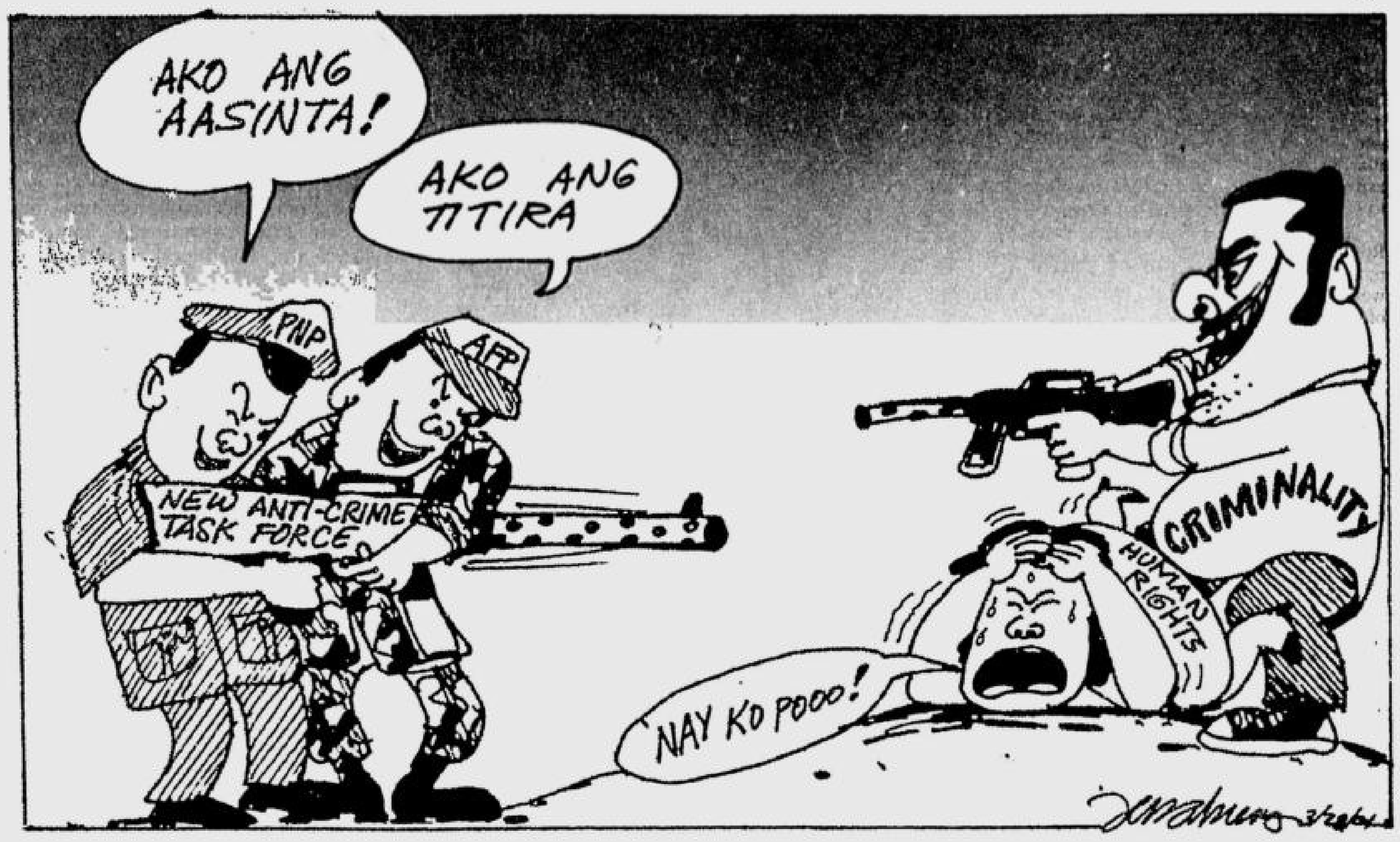
FOREIGN COMMENT

FEW will weep at the news in Forbes magazine that Bill Gates has seen the value of his fortune decline by $38.5 billion over the past 12 months.

Although the poor fellow is down to his last $54.4 billion, he remains the richest man on earth, and he is still worth much more on paper than a fair few countries in the Third World. Another reason not to weep for the founder of Microsoft is the fact that he has lost nothing at all. His paper losses are exactly what that phrase suggests: numbers on pieces of paper (or, rather, numbers on computer screens).

Meanwhile, we should rejoice that the world remains full of rich men such as Gates, who gave $1.5 billion to charities last year. And we should all resist the urge, as we struggle to understand his infernal computer programs, to chuckle over his multibillion-dollar misfortune.

The Daily Telegraph (London)



National Artist Awards losing prestige, respect

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE BROUHAHA over "Live Show" is still raging but here comes another controversy that will surely stir up the art community some more: the new National Artist Awards.

The awards used to be a happy occasion for artists. In the early days, when the awardees were Amorsolo, Botong Franciso, Manansala, Legaspi and Jose Garcia Villa, they were greeted with much rejoicing by the art community. Nobody questioned the choices. They were really great and respected artists.

But as the Philippine reservoir of truly great artists diminished and the number of delusional and ambitious ones increased, there is always grumbling every time the new National Artists are announced. I don't understand why we continue giving the awards when very few accept and respect them anymore. Awards are supposed to give honor to the recipient, but the National Artist Awards only invite derision. There is no more honor in it. There isn't much money, either. So what for does anybody want to be a National Artist? And why has this originally prestigious award come to this?

Because of the jockeying, lobbying and influence-peddling in the award-giving bodies. Because of the manner in which the recipients are chosen. Winning the award has become a marketing strategy. One wins it not because he is the best but because he is the most brazen and has the best and most expensive public relations tool. And lastly, because of the people who choose the awardees.

The National Artist Awards are given by the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). To be considered for an award, an artist has to be nominated by an "association" or "group." You may be the best artist in the world, but if no association nominates you, you won't even be listed down. But even if you are an untalented artist, or even a fake one, if you can get a group to nominate you, then you have a chance.

Several interesting vignettes come to mind. When E.R. Tagle was nominated for the award in painting by Rafael Pacheco of the Angono Lakeshore Artists, the latter was asked why. Pacheco replied: "He scratches my back, I scratch his." Tagle nominated him for the award, so he nominated Tagle in return.

A writer, a painter and an antique dealer were having lunch when the choice of Ang Kiukok as National Artist for Painting was announced in the INQUIRER.

"*Kawawa naman si* Kiukok *sa* awards *na ito*," said the writer.

"*Bakit naman*?" asked the painter. "*Magiging* National Artist *na nga, kawawa pa*."

Replied the writer: "Imagine, *dalawang* cartoonists *ang kalaban niya sa* awards—si Larry Alcala at Francisco V. Coching, *ang nag*-drawing ng 'Hagibis.'"

Why only two cartoonists? What happened to the other outstanding painters? What happened to Joya, Alcuaz, Chabet, Malang, Bencab, Yonzon? Nobody nominated them, so they were not even in the list.

But Alcala was nominated by UP Fine Arts Alumni president Araceli Dans. When she was asked why she nominated Alcala and not Joya, she replied: "*Kawawa naman si* Larry *at may sakit*." Larry is a long time family and personal friend and is undoubtedly a great cartoonist, but is being sick a criterion for the National Artist Awards?

Cartoonist (or illustrator) Coching, on the other hand, was sponsored by UP Prof. Patrick Flores who was commissioned as "attorney" by Coching's widow and two daughters. Mind you, I am not casting aspersions on the nominees but on the manner they are nominated and considered by the board of judges.

This "attorney" business is one more questionable practice in choosing the awardees. After an NCCA committee has whittled down the lists of nominees, another NCCA-CCP committee will deliberate on who will be the final nominees with their "attorneys." These "attorneys" are the presentors/defenders hired by the artist or his family to present his case before the board of judges. If you have no money for the "attorney," you lose.

In last year's award for painting, it was joked that art critic Eric Torres should have won the award instead of J. Elizalde Navarro. Torres, also a curator and art collector, made a grand presentation before the NCCA-CCP awards committee complete with slide show. He lectured for an hour instead of the 20 minutes prescribed by the rules. If an artist is that good, why would he need an "attorney" to defend him? What about the really good artists who have no groups to nominate them and no "attorneys" to praise them?

This is a confession of the lack of confidence in themselves of the awards committee. They know they are not up to the job so they need "attorneys" to convince them.

Come to think of it, who are these judges who, like fairy godmothers, bestow honor (?) on artists with the flick of a wand? Some artists claim they (the judges) belong to cliques, mostly from UP. If you don't belong to their cliques, you have no chance. Obviously, to regain respect and prestige for the National Artist Awards, the rules and procedures must be changed. It may go the way of the formerly prestigious TOYM and BWAP awards.

So they would command respect, the National Artists must be picked by their peers, not by some bureaucrats. How about letting the National Artists themselves pick who would join their ranks without anybody nominating them? After all, the artists know who is who among them.

The most prestigious awards in literature and journalism are the Pulitzer Prizes. There, nobody is nominated by anybody. There is a permanent secretariat that goes over all published material and picks out the outstanding ones for final consideration by a respected board of judges. Unlike in the Philippines, no outstanding work is overlooked. Here, you may be the best writer or journalist, but if you are the shy and modest or uninterested type, you'd never get an award. But if you are a mediocre but ambitious, aggressive type with delusions of grandeur who keep nominating yourself, you'd get award after award.

That's what's happening to the National Artist Awards.

Tolerance

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I READ with interest Belinda Olivares-Cunanan's review of "Live Show" last Monday. I am glad at least that among those who have felt free to comment on the movie, she has made it a point to see it.

Though she agrees that "Live Show" is a serious movie, she says, she found the sex scenes "too much, which doubtless were meant to be the box-office attraction." "The sex scenes, especially the live sex acts involving a couple as well as a woman with several sex partners, were too repetitive and long drawn out."

She had seen "The Accused," Belinda said, and Jodie Foster's gang-rape scene there was handled very well, "with a lot of movements that were merely suggestive of the crime rather than blunt voyeur-type scenes." She wondered how Filipino directors would have approached such a scene. "It's not difficult to see that chances are, every sordid detail would be splattered on the giant screen."

I beg to disagree.

I found nothing at all long drawn, repetitive and inartistic about the *toro* scenes in "Live Show." At the very least, there is nothing exploitative about those scenes. There is no angle there that exploits the human body for prurient ends. The impressive thing about those scenes precisely is their restraint.

The point of those scenes is not so hard to see, which should argue against the charge that they are long-drawn. They are meant to establish a contrast between the seemingly exotic and titillating thing the *toreros* are doing and the actually sordid and dehumanized lives they are living. They are meant to dramatize the unbearable pain beneath the unbearable pleasure. The faces of the characters say it all. There is no emotion there. There is only blankness, or nothingness, or invisibleness, as I said last Monday, amid the outwardly frenzied movements they simulate. I found nothing in those sex scenes that was gratuitous, or that was put there simply to lure moviegoers, the way *toro* houses themselves lure voyeurs.

Those scenes look repetitive only when seen apart from their context. But they are precisely not so because they involve different contexts. The one I particularly found powerful was when Hazel Espinosa, whose character had tried to go respectable but needed instant cash for her sick daughter, went back to do a "live show." Nick Tiongson is right to say that you would be sick to find pure titillation in *that* context. The even more powerful scene is when she comes home and her husband asks her to join him in a meal of *pan de sal*. She is too tired, she says, and just lays her head on his shoulder. You do not shed a tear or two from that—and this is not the product of blithe emotional manipulation—you must be dead.

None of this is to say that you may not stand in awe of the bodies of Klaudia Koronel, Ana Capri and Espinosa in their pristine state. None of this is to say that you should feel only self-mortification, like a flagellant, while standing before such a sight. That is like looking at a nude picture and seeing only its lines and texture and tones and not the beautiful woman that is there. That is what "For Adults Only" means, or ought to mean. It means evoking an adult or mature or complex emotional and intellectual response. Life is not simple. Not all experiences evoke laughter or tears, not all spectacles evoke pain or pleasure. Often they are a little of both. If a movie like "Live Show" can uplift me in more ways than one, I'll take it anytime.

What I myself found long-drawn in "Live Show" was the series of tragedies that kept befalling the characters, which made the second half seem like a litany of woes. I also thought the director might have explored the relationships between the *toro* performers, and what their work does to those relationships. Which would have given the conflict a more internal dynamism rather made it look like it was solely, or largely, between people and an external force, or fate. But these are aesthetic, not moral, quibbles.

If Joey Reyes handled the sex scenes in "Live Show" differently than Jonathan Kaplan handled the rape scene in "The Accused," it is obviously because they had different intentions. Different movies, different approaches. Kaplan himself would probably be the last to pass judgment on how the sex scenes in a movie *about* sex performers ought to be done.

While at this, it is simply *not* true that Filipino directors would routinely splatter every sordid detail of a rape scene on the giant screen. Gil Portes does not in "Markova: Comfort Gay." His movie is full of such scenes—which have the doubly exploitable potential of being homosexual rape—but they are artistically done. *Some* Filipino directors would exploit the voyeuristic potential. But then you have them in every turf, from Hollywood to Bollywood. I did write several columns a few years back during the height of the so-called "massacre movies" about some of them making rape look seductive and pleasurable.

All of which should emphasize again the need to exercise more, and not less, critical judgment in weighing movies with a controversial theme or content. To say that such movies should not be made at all—which Sonia Ronda and gang are in fact saying, their concept of an "uplifting" movie is "Bambi"—is silly. No theme by itself is illegitimate, no theme by itself is depraved. It is how you treat it that makes it so. Live shows do take place in this country and bristle with metaphor about the state of this country. It is not only a perfectly legitimate subject, it is a sublimely resonant one.

More to the point, all this should emphasize once again the monumental need for tolerance. You find a movie artless, I find it artful; you find a movie excessive, I find it restrained; you find a movie without redeeming value, I find it uplifting in the extreme. Why should I inflict my judgment on you? Why should I insist that you see or not see that movie the way I do? Why should I prevent you from seeing the movie at all? That is the totally unfair and idiotic thing Ronda, Jaime Cardinal Sin and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has done to "Live Show."

Their argument is that the *masa* are stupid, they will not see sex scenes in context, they will not respond to complex situations with sophistication. But I am willing to bet the public, whom they presume to be children, who are daily assailed by the adult experiences of poverty and want, joy and tragedy, hope and desperation, will be able to respond in a more mature way to "For Adults Only" movies than them.

Intolerance has always been a sign of infantilism.

Saga of Lourdes Street

HIGH BLOOD

Virginia B. Malay

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

REMINISCING brings fond recollections of childhood. I grew up in Pasay City, a town of Rizal in the mid-'20s. Pasay City then was idyllic and pristine—a far cry from the blighted city that it is now. After 40 years of the Cuneta administration, it has deteriorated a lot. It is disgustingly dirty and it has been called a "City of Sin" as well as a "squatters' paradise." I hope Sharon Cuneta, for all her charm and talent, does not make good her promise to run for mayor of Pasay City and instead give way to other aspiring and bona fide residents, who sincerely desire to serve our city and restore it to its old glory.

Lourdes Street lies between Harrison Street and Roxas Boulevard. When our family started living there, most of the houses were chalets with nipa roofs. There were just a few houses and, as children, we had a lot of space to play around. The street was usually free of vehicles and we could safely play *pico, patintero* and "kick the can" right on the street. Our environs were clean and we enjoyed the cool sea breeze of Manila Bay. What a joy it was to play and stroll on the beach, gather seashells and build castles on the sand. We would wade and jump over the waves in our street clothes, but got scolded by Mama for coming home all wet. Now the beach of our carefree years is the traffic-laden thoroughfare that Roxas Boulevard has become.

Different waves of residents have lived and left memories of their stay in Lourdes Street. During our early years, the neighborhood consisted of simple, indigenous and conservative people. We were comfortable with each other and our mothers observed such amenities as occasionally giving a neighbor a plate or bowl of cooked food from one's table for lunch or *merienda.*

In the early '30s, a few Castillan families moved into our street and built two-story houses. They could hardly speak Filipino and my parents put their knowledge of Spanish into good use. Our next-door neighbor, Doña Consuelo, lived alone with her dogs, which she pampered with Vienna bread and sausage. There was a tall guava tree laden with the sweetest guavas in her backyard. The Amechazuras were also our next neighbors. The daughters were our playmates and schoolmates at St. Paul's College, Manila. We imbibed some of their common Spanish expressions like, "*hasta la vista,*" "*no me digas,*" "*o y que*?" etc.

In middle '30s, a new wave of residents made their permanent abode in Lourdes Street. They were mostly upper middle class, government officials and professionals. The Honorable Primitivo San Agustin Sr. was secretary to the first President of the Philippine Commonwealth, Manuel L. Quezon. His wife, Doña Ruby was Mama's good friend. Her two sons, Priming and Tony were with Aurora A. Quezon and her family when they were ambushed by the Huks in 1949.

The Marambas were long-time residents of Lourdes. The Honorable Felix Maramba Sr. founded the very progressive Liberty Flour Mills. Larry Henares, a nephew, who lived with the Marambas for some time, often recalls his youthful experiences with my brother, Teddy and other friends, in his radio program and erstwhile column in the INQUIRER.

The Villas lived just across us and our families' friendship has been sustained through the years. But they are all gone and the only survivor is the former deputy ombudsman, Francisco Villa. His sister, Cynthia, never tired of retelling, before her untimely demise, how my brother, Teddy, would seek refuge at their place to escape my mother's fury over his escapades. Ms Villa and my mother were always distinguished by the mestiza dress they wore whenever they went to church and social affairs.

When the war broke out, the residents of Lourdes Street became closer yet, having plenty of time to socialize since most schools and offices were closed. Some German Jew refugees from Nazi Germany during World War II also lived in Lourdes Street during the Japanese Occupation. They seemed wealthy and educated people and we had friends among them too.

During the Liberation of Pasay, most of the houses were burned down, but the houses on Lourdes Street were miraculously spared. Since the holocaust took place on Feb. 11, 1945—the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes—the miracle was naturally attributed to her. Mama initiated the celebration of a thanksgiving Mass on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes in the patio of our house, where we have a grotto of Lourdes. The tradition has been carried on up to the present, although now the Mass is celebrated on the street because the squatters who have invaded Lourdes, also join. The Mass is followed by a procession around the block. The parish priest, the barangay captain and some neighbors have dinner at home after the procession. Today, however, the squatters have made the tradition as their fiesta. Since they are now part of the community, they feel they belong.

Aside from us, the only original residents who still have their old houses standing there are the Villas, the Villanuevas of Bicol, the Coronados and the Reyeses. The well-appointed house of the San Agustins is now a nightspot with questionable activities.

The original residents who have left Lourdes Street felt sad to leave the place because they had spent a good many years of their lives there. Many of them moved to the subdivisions in Makati and Parañaque for the ambience that Lourdes Street had lost.

Our house is now hemmed in by a row of squatters on one side and a three-story condominium on the other side. Vehicles can hardly pass between parked tricycles, cars and jeepneys operated by the squatters. All kinds of stores—a barbershop and beauty parlor, as well as a makeshift funeral parlor occupy one side of the street. Children and infants play and roam around the place. Yet, in spite of all these irritants, my sisters have stayed on for convenience, because of its location. My oldest sister has actually expressed the wish to continue living in the Lourdes house until it's time for her to go.

Even in our twilight years now, we who have survived—seven siblings all—cling fondly to the house in Lourdes Street. It has seen us through significant events in our lives—from the day we were born to our growing-up years, schooling and graduation from elementary to college; World War II; the death of loved ones; happy times and heartaches. Be it ever so humble, the house on Lourdes Street will always be "Home Sweet Home."

Virginia B. Malay, 80, is a retired college professor.

What artists need

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"I WANT to thank anyone who spends part of the day creating—a book, a film, a painting, a piece of dance, a piece of music—anybody who spends part of their day sharing their experience with us. I think this world would be unlivable without art."

So said Steven Soderbergh, winner of the Academy Award as Best Director for "Traffic."

I was near falling asleep as the night deepened into the commercial-choked replay of the Oscar awards, but Soderbergh's tribute to artists jolted me to alertness. Before heading for home, I'd been in a meeting with some friends, among them theater producer/director/actor Bart Guingona. The topic for much of the evening was, of course, the "Live Show" controversy and still ringing in my ears was Bart's declaration: "Do you know why we're so fired up by this issue? Because self-expression and the freedom to create is so vital to us. If we do not enjoy this freedom, if we have to think about limits and all, then we would be dead as artists."

I shuddered to think of life in this backwater without our artists, without our dancers, singers, actors, songwriters, playwrights, painters, sculptors, film directors and writers. I tried to imagine going through life without a book to read, or a CD to listen to, a VCD (even if pirated!) to watch, a painting to study, a ballet to lose oneself in, a play to absorb.

I even tried to imagine being an artist myself in this regime of morals police and moralistic leaders. What if we ended up like Singapore, where even stage presentations are subject to pre-censorship by the State, where public speakers have to register before they can address a crowd? We would soon feel not just terrible boredom, but a withering of the spirit, the death of the artistic, creative spark that sustains us Filipinos through even the deadening grind of poverty and desperation.

* * *

AN ARTIST needs freedom, even this philistine knows. An artist cannot function with shackles on the imagination, with boundaries set on the possibilities of creation. As Armida Siguion-Reyna asserted when interviewed about a proposal to provide subsidies to local filmmakers: Subsidies, no matter how generous, would not uplift the quality of local movies if filmmakers would be forced to "tailor" their work according to what they think the MTRCB and the morals police would approve.

Good art, I believe, is always true—and truthful. If art serves a declared "purpose" other than the artist's self-expression, then it is not art but propaganda. If it is hemmed in by inordinate concerns about "returns on investments," then it is commercial drivel. If it is less than honest, or seeks to conceal rather than reveal, then it is not art but fakery.

But just as artists have a "duty" to themselves to be as truthful and daring as they can and want to be, we the audience also have a duty to take their work as the artists present them to us. Saying a movie could have been done with less flesh-baring, with shorter sex scenes, with less profanity, is to demand that the director have walked away from the set and allowed us all to have our say. A movie (but also a play or any piece of performance art) is a collaborative effort, true, but it springs from an individual's vision and interpretation offered to us to accept or reject, like or dislike—but not to turn into our own "acceptable" versions.

* * *

OVER BREAKFAST yesterday, senatorial candidate Kiko Pangilinan told a group of columnists that he believes the fracas over censorship and self-expression in the "Live Show" controversy would have little impact on the outcome of the coming elections. "Sixty percent of the voters are from the 'D' class," he said, "and what matters to them are gut issues, issues like poverty, land, housing, food and education."

He has his own personal stand on the issue, "especially since my wife is a member of the film community," Kiko says, but being a member of the People Power Coalition, he would rather keep his counsel.

The issue may have little impact on the elections, we told Kiko, but it has certainly had an impact on the core of "true believers" in the Spirit of People Power. The President has alienated the liberals, who may not count for much in number, but who animated much of the popular wave of indignation and outrage that gradually swelled and swept Erap out of Malacañang.

More damaging than a bombshell of a scandal is the softening of resolve, the clouding of the rosy view that with Erap gone, our country was moving on to better times. These certainly do not feel like better times.

* * *

WITH THE new MTRCB chair's declaration that "Live Show" was nothing but "pornography for pornography's sake," the Macapagal administration obviously believes the outcry over the Tiongson resignation will be muted and eventually silenced.

Highlighted in most media reports was the absence of "big names" in the entertainment industry in the protest rally spearheaded by film directors. But the Macapagal administration might do well to look at the faces in the rally. Apart from Richard Gomez and a coterie of pro-Erap rallyists hoping to ride on the issue, the rest of the artists and protesters present were Edsa "origs."

The issue goes far beyond the question of whether "Live Show" is decent viewing or not, or whether the Church, in the person of Jaime Cardinal Sin, wields too much influence in State affairs.

Also under scrutiny is President Macapagal's management style, and her appreciation of the nature of a democratic system. It is most profoundly about politics in this country. About whether a government installed through People Power should operate as if this was all about the Power of a Few People.

History stored in museum bodegas abroad

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IN APRIL 1999, while going over the Philippine materials in the Bentley Historical Library in the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, I came across the papers of Carl E. Guthe who headed an archaeological expedition to the Philippines from 1922-1925. Although acknowledged in current literature as the first systematic archaeological excavation in the Philippines by a trained archaeologist, the Guthe or University of Michigan Philippine Expedition does not ring a bell these days. Few people know that the Guthe collection consisting of over 10,000 artifacts unearthed from 542 archaeological sites in the Southern Philippines form the core collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology. Imagine a collection that totaled 33 cubic tons packed in 285 boxes!

In the museum bodega I went through tray after tray of about 7,500 ceramic vessels—whole and fragments—most of which came to the Philippines from China, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia during the 10th to the 18th centuries. Every piece documented with detailed field and lab notes. We know where and when these were found, by whom and how much was paid for them. Aside from ceramics are shell ornaments, copper and iron objects, beads, semi-precious stones, glass bracelets, even pieces of early Philippine gold.

Although Oriental ceramics are considered more valuable by collectors, I did not give these a second look as I was more interested in the pre-colonial Philippine earthenware. These look like ordinary *palayok* used in Filipino restaurants today, but they are important as products of early Filipino artisans. I am not an archaeologist and boast of only two graduate anthropology electives so I could not make full use of the collection. I was told that I was the only Filipino to go through the collection in recent years.

The scholarly fruit from the Guthe collection has been rather slim: Kamer Aga-Oglu wrote studies on Chinese export ceramics; Wilhelm Solheim a dissertation on Philippine pottery; Guthe, an article on gold decorated teeth; Eusebio Dizon dealt with excavated metal objects. There was an unpublished graduate paper on shell bracelets in the collection and, I presume, other research works in progress (or works abandoned) on other aspects of this huge underutilized collection. What depressed me was not that the collection was abroad, but rather the realization that a history of Philippine archaeology has yet to be written. A major chapter of that unwritten history will deal with Guthe and the Michigan Expedition.

Upon my return to Manila I applied for a Fulbright Research Grant limiting myself to the major figures who shaped the beginnings of Philippine archaeology and charted Philippine prehistory. These archaeologists were all male, all were Americans, and all were comfortably six feet under the ground: Carl E. Guthe, H. Otley Beyer and Robert B. Fox. While archaeological research in the Philippines over the past three decades has been undertaken mainly by Filipinos and the National Museum of the Philippines, much of their work has been validation or challenge to the work of Guthe, Beyer and Fox. For almost half a century, from the 1920s to the 1970s, Philippine archaeology was dominated by the work of these American pioneers in the field as well as lesser known American scholars and collectors: Olov Janse, Fay Cooper-Cole, E.D. Hester and Dean C. Worcester to name a few. As a matter of fact, a generation of Filipino archaeologists at work today studied or worked under or with Beyer and Fox.

However, like most research problems, one ends up with more questions than answers. Before I left for the United States, I already imagined the spine of my book, "American Pioneers in Philippine Archeology." It was a nice catchy title that crumbled when the French cultural counselor, Marcel Jouve, politely reminded me that the first recorded archaeological expedition was not by Guthe. Not by an American, but by the Frenchman Alfred Marche who visited the Philippines from 1879-1885. Marche had carted away thousands of artifacts for the Museum of Natural History, then the Musee du Trocadero, now the Musee de l'homme or Museum of Man in Paris. These included artificially deformed skulls, other human bones, Oriental ceramics, even pre-colonial gold. Illustrations of these appeared in his book published in Paris in 1887, the same year Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" saw print. Marche must have brought home so much material that some small jarlets were given as exchange to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. I was surprised to come across these jarlets when I was in the Smithsonian *bodega* because I was told the Smithsonian did not have any Philippine archaeological artifacts.

Imagine these fragile jarlets traveling from China to the pre-colonial Philippines. Buried in a cave in Marinduque for centuries, they were excavated in the late 19th century, brought to Paris and eventually ended up in a museum bodega outside Washington, D.C. Part of our history lies in museums abroad and it will take some time to analyze these artifacts to piece together our pre-colonial past.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Is this democracy?

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

IF you watched Jessica Soho's excellent "I-Witness" feature on the election campaign the other night, that's also the question you'd be asking. Although journalistically designed by Soho as a light feature story, it really portrays the essence of what we have been told is our process of representative democracy.

The reality: our elections aren't about citizens rationally choosing their representatives. It's essentially a mass media manipulation project, no different from selling toothpaste and laundry soap. It was a brilliant angle for the "I-Witness" edition to use as a gimmick Soho being packaged as a senatorial candidate—with her own jingle, *"Soho para sa Senado."*

A central figure in the feature isn't a political leader or an ideologue. It is a spin doctor, Reli German, whom I'm convinced really gave us Joseph Estrada, with his coining of the "Erap *para sa mahirap*" slogan. German explains to Soho such trade secrets for getting votes as looking at strangers straight in the eyes while handshaking, repeating your name like a mantra in crowds, wearing bright clothes while on the campaign trail.

It's the same things the candidates of the two major contending parties discuss in Soho's feature, so that you can't distinguish between say, Liwayway Chato and Jamby Madrigal, what principles each represents.

Soho's shots captured the ridiculousness of it all. Candidate Juan Ponce Enrile is being interviewed while on his moving, customized Safari waving as he smiles ear to ear to the crowd. Soho asks where he's getting the money for his campaign. Enrile loses his smile, and retorts sternly, "This is all my money." A split-second later, his ear-to-ear grin returns as he waves to the crowd.

At least P50M needed

Finance of course is the most crucial part of this purported democratic exercise. At the very least, a senatorial candidate needs P50 million to have any chance of winning. And that doesn't yet include the expenses for employing poll watchers on election day in order to ensure that his votes are counted. The P50 million is just for the posters and leaflets—not for arguing or explaining a particular program, but which simply announce the candidate's name.

It's a dilemma facing large complex societies which the inventors of democracy had no idea would emerge. No one wants kings or dictators. So let the people choose their representatives.

That was easy in ancient Athens, which invented representative democracy: there were only about 20,000 citizens, and more than half of them were usually out of town on some war. That was also easy in the 18th century at the birth of American democracy, where voters totaled less than a million, and most of these were in communities where town-hall meetings were a common practice.

The number of voters we have: 34 million, scattered throughout an archipelago, many in remote areas still in 19th century, even pre-modern conditions. Democracy—as it was in the case of Athenian citizens or of US settlers—assumes peer discussions, in the sense that each voter has equal access to the information he needs to make a rational choice on whom he will vote for. In the Philippine case, I would estimate that those who have both access to enough information and have interest in how the country is being governed would total at most 5 million, most of them in the cities.

"Commodification" of democracy

To be sure, it's not just a Philippine phenomenon. One social philosopher, Jurgen Habermas, in his analysis of advanced Western societies, called it the "commodification" of the democratic ideal. Capitalism may have unleashed the forces of production. It is so powerful though that it has hijacked even the political sphere, transforming everything in it as a commodity to be sold.

That's the reason why broadcaster Noli de Castro is topping the polls, "Magandang Gabi Bayan" has been a commodity—together with the anchorman, even if we don't have any idea whether he is smarter than Estrada or not—sold every weekday night in the past several years. Who cares what De Castro's stand on whether Estrada is still the legitimate president or not?

One colleague of Habermas in the so-called "Frankfurt School" of critical sociology, had even pointed out the conceptual contradiction of elections in complex societies. It is a process of legitimizing rulers, and "legitimization" connotes objectivity. What can be more objective than numbers which polls tally?

But such objectivity is entirely based on subjectivity: the personal impressions of voters, for instance whether they liked Miriam Defensor-Santiago's weird accent or whether they just forgot the accusations against Panfilo Lacson that he ordered the execution of hog-tied suspects.

One of Habermas' powerful insights though is that democracy isn't simply a process of counting heads. It isn't a process of just calling people to some place, asking them whom they'd like to be their rulers, and after that telling them to go home.

Habermas emphasized that the more important part of democracy is a rational, continuing discussion by its citizens. Athenian democracy involved each tribe sending 50 of its representatives to its Council of 500, not really to vote for somebody but to discuss policies. Western European democracy evolved from what Habermas points out where the coffee houses and even pubs where citizens discussed how their post-monarchy republics should be governed. The "town hall meetings" of 17th century America were really the foundations of its democracy.

Media were an essential part of democracy then, when the earliest newspapers were really extended manifestoes. But then even media have been "commodified" in the last several decades into entertainment sheets.

In short, as a Habermas scholar, Walter Rheingold pointed out: "The idea of modern representative democracy…included a recognition of a living web of citizen to citizen communications known as civil society or the public sphere…although elections are the most visible fundamental characteristics of democratic societies, those elections are assumed to be supported by discussions among citizens at all levels of society about issues of importance to the nation."

Sounds familiar? Yes, it is. Our most recent real and obvious exercise in democracy happened in the period of the impeachment trial to Edsa II. Media provided all the information, and rational, even at times heated, discussions flourished in coffee shops, offices, beer houses, club meetings on whether Estrada should continue to govern or not. The rise of NGOs, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's consultations with them so far, even on such issues as the Omnibus Power Bill and the recent mushrooming of e-mail discussion groups such as the Pilipinas Forum and Plaridel Papers. These are our democratic processes.

The one on May 14 hardly is.

* * *

If you have heard about the articles on former Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay's alleged unexplained wealth, but can't find the magazine Newsbreak that published the pieces, you can just log on to www.inq7.net, and check the site's editions from March 22 to March 25.

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

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LTFRB just following process

THIS is with reference to your editorial last March 22 titled "Unsafe." Allow me to deal with two items or issues in the said editorial which pertains to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board. These are: (1) The query "as for the LTFRB, how many times has it revoked the franchises of certain bus companies involved in too many accidents or found to have violated the terms of their franchises, only to give them back after a while?" and (2) "With 25 people lying dead, eight of them burned beyond recognition, all Lantin could think of was how much money the victims of their families should be getting. Apparently, it never occurred to him that maybe, just maybe, there could be something wrong with the way his agency approves the applications for franchise of operators of trucks and passenger vehicles or the way the Land Transportation Office issues licenses to drivers."

On the first item or issue, may I inform the INQUIRER that for the year 2000 alone, the LTFRB has cancelled 148 certificates of public convenience (franchises) involving 469 vehicles and suspended 14 franchises involving 23 vehicles for accident-related causes and/or violations of the terms and conditions prescribed in the cancelled and suspended franchises. In canceling franchises, the LTFRB however has to observe due process which means summoning the respondent operators to show cause why their franchises should not be cancelled or suspended. This is the reason the franchises of erring operators cannot immediately be cancelled or suspended, as demanded sometimes by media or impatient observers who do not appreciate a process that hears before it punishes.

On the second item or issue, since the LTFRB cannot, right after the occurrence of the accidents, hear the side of the parties because it has to wait for the police to investigate the accidents and the LTFRB has to issue the summons for the franchise holders involved in the accidents to appear before the board, the LTFRB chair's immediate response pertains to the humanitarian aspect of its regulatory function—which is to see to it that the immediate needs by way of monetary assistance of the accident victims are taken care of. This is why the LTFRB chair's immediate concern is for the insurance firms and the operators involved in the accidents to extend immediate monetary assistance to the hapless victims. This is of course without prejudice to the imposition of the appropriate administrative penalties on the franchise holders, should they be found to have violated the terms and conditions of their franchises.

Lastly, the summons for the operators involved in the North Expressway and Coastal Road accidents have already been issued. The hearings for these two accidents have been set for March 27, 2001. If there is evidence of culpability on the part of the respondent operators, rest assured the LTFRB will impose the penalties appropriate to the violations committed.—**DANTE M. LANTIN, chair, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, East Avenue, Quezon City**

Party list is for marginalized sectors

THE PARTY-LIST system was introduced in the 1987 Constitution to enable the marginalized sectors to be represented in the national legislative body. Although there were only 13 party-list organizations which won in 1998, it was still a victory. It proved that organizations and parties representing the masses can win without resorting to massive vote-buying.

But this innovative provision in our Constitution will be subverted if the Commission on Elections will allow government-sponsored organizations (such as the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga or business groups (like the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Association and the Philippine Chinese Chamber of Commerce) to join the party-list system.

What should be given priority is the organization of deprived groups such as peasants, laborers, fishermen, women and others. Business groups have easy access to politicians. They can tap large funds in lobbying legislators and executive officials to promote and protect their economic interests.

Government-funded groups such as MAD should not be allowed as it would be unfair to other party-list organizations. We urge the election commissioners to be faithful to our Constitution.—**RAFFY REY HIPOLITO, regional coordinator, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines-Northern Luzon, 25 St. Mary St., Cubao, Quezon City**

Key is real discipline

WHY do we Filipinos have an aversion to discipline? Is it in our genes ? There is an ordinance against smoking and the playing of loud music in jeepneys and buses. Perhaps, the ordinance has been repealed or, if not, it is being blatantly ignored, as commuters have to endure daily the blaring radios. Manila has earned the distinction of being the third most polluted city in the world. We have smoke pollution, noise pollution and superstition pollution in profusion. At the rate we are going, we may still attain the No. 1 status as the most polluted city in this planet.

We are aware of the continuous desecration through pollution of the Pasig River and yet, we seem indifferent. For many decades, it has become second nature for us to dump our garbage into the river and its tributaries. From time to time, there would be grandiose campaigns to rehabilitate the river. It has become tedious listening to these periodic proclamations.

Basically, saving the river can be simple and even economical if we can have the will to educate ourselves to completely refrain from making the river our trash bin and if the government will move seriously with determination, monitor and really penalize (no mere slap on the wrist) the factories along the river bank and its vicinity. Otherwise, not in a thousand years, or all the money in the world, can save the Pasig River. The key is discipline, which lamentably we disdain.—**VICTOR MURILLO, 658 Maharlika St., Plainview, Mandaluyong City**

LETTERS

'Darna' can't be associated with destruction

THIS is in reaction to the article written by C.D. Balana titled "Watch out, 'Barok' is coming," last March 20, 2001. While we recognize the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's good intentions in its new project to adopt new names for tropical depressions, I, on behalf of my siblings, are not agreeable to the use of Darna among the names of typhoons.

First, Darna is not a native name like Auring, Chedeng, Kaka and Jolina. Darna is a character created by our father, the late Mars Ravelo, and thus falls into the category of an intellectual property. Therefore, Darna as a name and as a character cannot be used by any individual or group without our permission as heirs of the creator.

More important, and this is what really concerns us, is that Darna is a superhero. She was created in the image of a crime buster, a champion of the masses. She is supposed to save lives and property. Inasmuch as tropical depressions are weather disturbances, we would not wish Darna to be associated with destruction, havoc and death.

Darna is our father's legacy to the Filipino people. She has transcended several generations of *komiks* readers and moviegoers. She was created long before Supergirl saw light in American comics. It is our obligation as heirs of its creator to protect her good image and the hard work and passion that was put into this character.

With all due respect to Director Leoncio Amadore of Pagasa, we request that Darna be stricken out of their new list of typhoon names. It would be a great honor, but we feel that it is not quite appropriate. It is our hope though, that in the agency's future projects, Darna can be of service to Pagasa and the Filipino people.—**REGINA RAVELO-MARASIGAN, 121 Panay Avenue, Quezon City**

Wage distortion issue in PAL still unresolved

WE would like to set the record straight regarding the P2-billion claim of Jose Penas III and his group allegedly on behalf of the Philippine Airlines Employees Association (Palea) against PAL as reported last March 13. Here are the facts:

In December 1983, Palea filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Commission seeking to correct alleged wage distortions in PAL brought about by a series of presidential decrees and wage orders issued by then President Ferdinand Marcos. The decrees raised the minimum wage and cost of living allowance.

The NLRC subsequently ruled that a wage distortion existed in PAL, but did not order the computation of such distortion. Instead, the NLRC directed the parties concerned (PAL management and Palea) to meet and discuss the issue, with the end in view of updating the pay scale to correct the distortion. The NLRC stipulated that only after such discussion could the rightful amount due the covered employees be properly computed. The Supreme Court upheld the NLRC's decision, making it final and executory. The case was referred to the labor arbiter for implementation.

On June 23, 1998, PAL was placed under receivership by the Securities and Exchange Commission, which also appointed a rehabilitation receiver to protect the airline's assets and deal with all monetary claims.

On Sept. 14, 1998, the labor arbiter ordered the socio-economic analyst to immediately compute the amount of wage distortion. PAL appealed to the NLRC on the ground that the labor arbiter's order modified the NLRC's final and executory decision. On Jan. 30, 2001, the NLRC granted PAL's appeal and referred the case to the airline's rehabilitation receiver. The NLRC also suspended all proceedings in the case, including the computation of the wage distortion.

It is clear from the facts that no official computation of the monetary award was ever made by the NLRC. The P2.029 billion claim of Palea is its own reckoning of the wage distortion. In arriving at this highly inflated amount, Palea included all PAL employees. In fact, only rank and file and supervisory employees who were on the airline's payroll at the time the presidential decrees took effect—and who were not able to enjoy the statutory minimum wage increase—are covered by the decision.

The NLRC's original decision, upheld by the Supreme Court, remains the correct, lawful way to resolve the dispute. Both parties must meet and discuss the wage distortion issue. This is the first step. Only then can a valid computation of any claim be made.

Unfortunately, Palea is beset with leadership problems. The legitimacy of Penas as the duly elected Palea president is being questioned by the union membership. The Department of Labor and Employment has nullified the results of the Palea election last February 2000 that Penas and his group claim to have won.

The DOLE has ordered a fresh vote and installed the previous set of officers to oversee union affairs. This order has been appealed by Penas.

PAL is thus faced with the dilemma of whom to sit down with and discuss the wage distortion issue. The sooner Palea resolves its internal disputes, the sooner it can focus on its claim against PAL.—**CESAR B. LAMBERTE, vice president for human resources, Philippine Airlines, P.O. Box 1955, Manila**

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

N. Korea says Bush escalating tension

SEOUL—North Korea yesterday accused the United States of planting "a time bomb" in their fragile relations and escalating tensions on the divided Korean peninsula as a prelude to war.

Rodong Sinmun, the newspaper of North Korea's ruling Workers Party, criticized President George W. Bush's administration, which has said the North's Stalinist regime must prove it is serious about improving ties with the rest of the world.

"It is just like a thief crying, 'Stop the thief,'" Rodong said in a commentary carried by the North's official foreign news outlet, KCNA, which was monitored in Seoul.

With characteristically strong rhetoric, North Korea said the United States falsely accused the North of being a threat in an effort to derail rapprochement between South and North Korea.

"It is the invariable strategy of the US imperialists to stifle (North Korea) by means of war and invade and dominate Asia, taking the whole of Korea as a springboard," Rodong said.

US-North Korean ties thawed during the last months of former President Clinton's stint in office, culminating with a visit to Pyongyang by then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in October.

But Bush, during a visit to Washington by South Korean President Kim Dae-jung this month, said he would not go ahead with negotiations with North Korea any time soon and was reviewing US policy.

The North's official media have since churned out a near-daily outpouring of anti-US rhetoric.

"They are getting seriously on (the North's) nerves in a bid to plant a time bomb in the bilateral relations," Rodong said.

North Korea has threatened to lift its 1999 moratorium on long-range missile tests and pull out of the 1994 agreement with Washington that freezes its nuclear weapons program in return for two Western-built reactors.

On a visit to Beijing earlier this month, the commander of US Pacific forces said he believed the North Koreans were continuing to develop missiles.

"I don't have many illusions about the North Koreans having some sort of a change of character in recent years," Admiral Dennis C. Blair said. "They are tough partners, they try to use a combination of inducements and outrageous behavior to try to get what they want." *AP*

Asian nations ensure Annan reelection

UNITED NATIONS—Asian nations have all but cleared the way for UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's election to a second term, praising his "exemplary leadership" and virtually ruling out fielding a candidate to challenge him, a diplomat said.

At a meeting of the 50-nation Asian Group Monday, "there was unanimous appreciation, acknowledgment of his qualities of leadership, and there was no doubt in the minds of anybody that he will be reelected," said Pakistan's UN Ambassador Shamshad Ahmad, the group's current chair.

The group, however, stopped short of endorsing Annan for a second five-year term because some members said they needed instructions from their governments before agreeing to an endorsement, Ahmad said.

Diplomatic sources said Malaysia was among the countries that wanted to consult their governments.

By tradition, the secretary general's job rotates every 10 years by region, and it's now Asia's turn to propose a candidate. But Africa's 10-year term was split after Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt was denied a second term by the United States, which has veto power in the Security Council.

Annan, who is from Ghana, has won high marks for his leadership and reform efforts at the United Nations, and there has been a quiet campaign for months to reelect him. With Asia reportedly divided over a candidate—and no frontrunner emerging—the 53-nation African Group earlier this month endorsed the secretary general for a second term.

Last week, Annan threw his hat in the ring and immediately won a critical endorsement from US President George W. Bush. *AP*

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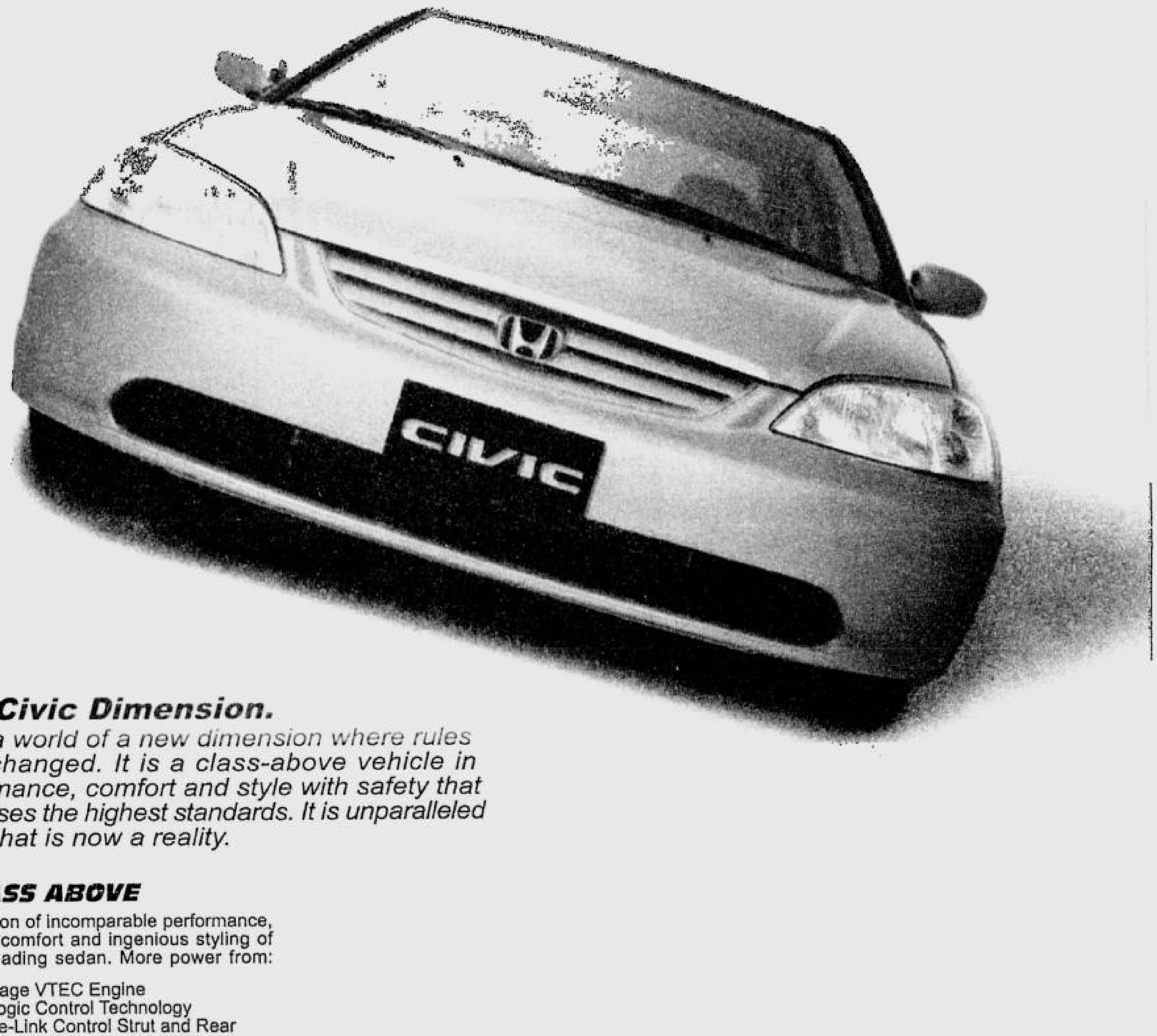

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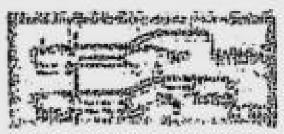
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Japanese want Mori to quit

TOKYO—More than three-fourths of Japanese voters surveyed say unpopular Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori should immediately resign, according to a newspaper poll released yesterday.

Seventy-seven percent of the respondents said Mori should officially announce his resignation and that his Cabinet should resign en masse, the poll by the mass-circulation Yomiuri said.

Support for Mori has plunged to less than 10 percent in various local media polls since taking office in April of last year, making him the second-most unpopular Japanese prime minister since World War II.

Mori has come under fire for doing little to fix the nation's struggling economy—the Tokyo Stock Market recently fell into a 16-year-low and unemployment remains at a record high amid corporate restructuring

He has also been criticized for finishing a round of golf after being told about the sinking of a Japanese fisheries training ship rammed by a US Navy submarine off Hawaii on Feb. 9. Nine Japanese, including four high school students, were still missing.

In a separate question, the Yomiuri survey found 92 percent of the respondents supporting the prime minister's resignation, while only 4 percent said he does not need to leave office.

The Yomiuri survey was conducted Saturday and Sunday, polling 1,946 eligible voters picked at random nationwide. No margin of error was given. The paper is Japan's largest.

On March 10, Mori indicated to senior Liberal Democratic Party officials that he intended to resign without saying when he would actually step down. *AP*

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Alert up as Wahid faces showdown

JAKARTA—Indonesian security forces yesterday placed thousands of police and soldiers on standby in the capital as legislators prepared for a showdown with President Abdurrahman Wahid who is staving off calls to quit.

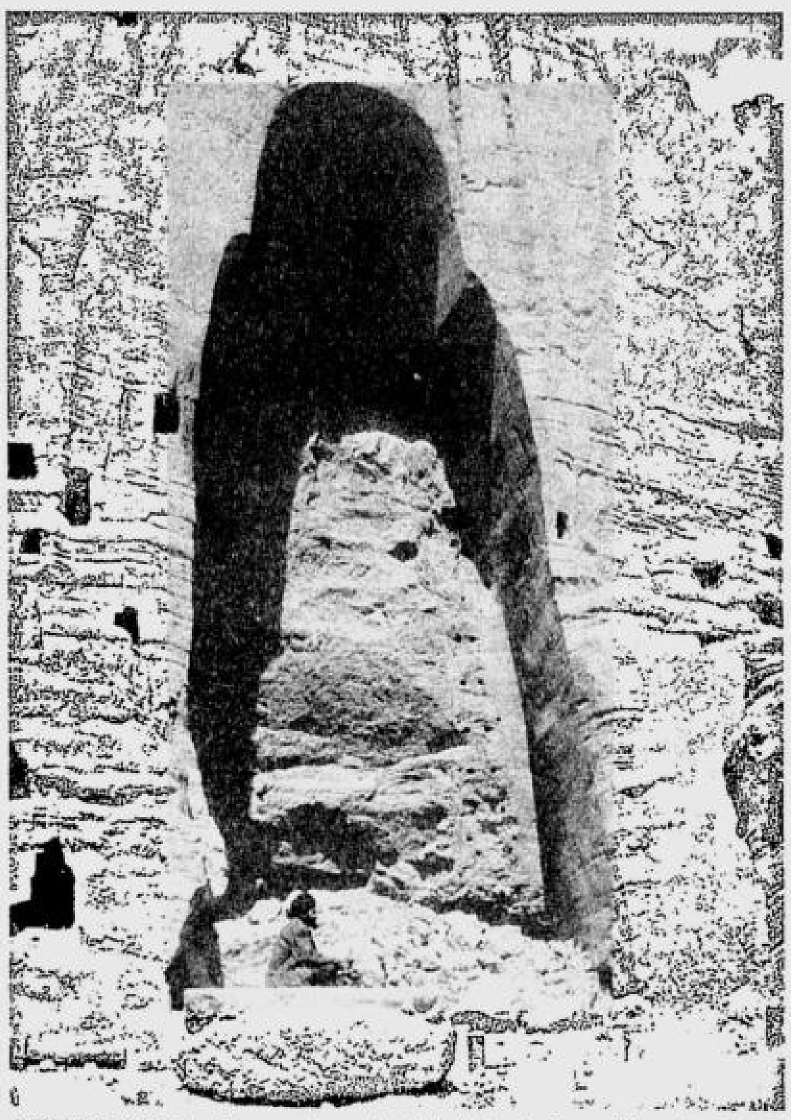
Wahid is scheduled to meet with the legislature on Wednesday to present his response to last month's parliamentary censure for his alleged involvement in two multimillion-dollar corruption scandals.

Even though Wahid is expected to take a conciliatory tone in his prepared speech, lawmakers and political analysts say there is little he can do to prevent the legislature issuing a second censure and taking a step closer to possible impeachment.

"He is at our mercy," said lawmaker Alvin Lie, who is leading the charge against Wahid. "I would be very surprised if the second memorandum is not issued."

He said that in addition to the two financial scandals, legislators were also dissatisfied with Wahid for his failure to end communal fighting in several troublespots and for not improving the economy, which some analysts say is on the verge of collapse.

Political analyst Salim Said said it was likely Wahid's speech will be rejected by the parliament as "most lawmakers have lost confidence that this president can govern the country." *AP*



A TALIBAN fighter sits on a piece of rubble in front of one of the demolished Buddha statues in the central Afghan province of Bamiyan March 26. Afghanistan's ruling Taliban took 20 days to destroy two giant Buddha statues hewn into a cliff more than 1,500 years ago, according to an official. REUTERS

Group moving to build replicas of destroyed Afghan Buddha statues

COLOMBO—A Sri Lankan Buddhist organization has sought help from neighboring India and Pakistan to build a scaled down replica of the Bamiyan Buddha statues destroyed by Afghanistan's Taliban rulers.

The private Sri Lanka Maha Bodhi Society said it was seeking detailed drawings from archaeological experts in India and Pakistan to carry out the work.

"We have written to the Indian High Commission and the Pakistan High Commission here asking them for photographs and other details from their archaeological reserves," said Maha Bodhi Secretary, M. M. P. Senarathne.

He said they might also try to get down craftsmen from other countries to carry out a near-perfect reproduction.

"We have had a very good response to our appeal for public help," said Senarathne. "This is no longer a Buddhist issue. We want to recreate the statues for future generations to see."

He said Sri Lanka's minority Muslim community was coming forward with generous donations to finance the construction.

Senarathne said it was most likely that they will build a replica that will be about one third the size of the original statues dating back to the 2nd century AD.

The statue will be built at the society's premises in Colombo. The Maha Bodhi Society, established in 1891, is an organization, which provides funding for the upkeep of historic Buddhist sites in India.

Sri Lanka, the seat of Theravada Buddhism, had earlier offered to finance an international operation to save the two statues which were destroyed by the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan this month.

Later, the Colombo government offered to buy the rubble and any remains of the statues.

India's High Commissioner Gopalskrishna Gandhi told the Sri Lankan government that New Delhi had surveyed the historic sites in Afghanistan and the maps could be used in rebuilding copies. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Pope's choice angers Australians

SYDNEY—The appointment by Pope John Paul II of a hardline arch-conservative to Australian Catholicism's most senior post sparked outrage among more liberally-minded Catholics here yesterday. Some said the appointment of Melbourne's outspoken Archbishop George Pell as the new Archbishop of Sydney would wind the Church back to the Middle Ages and drive priests out of the Church at a time it desperately needed new recruits. Pell, whose appointment was announced on Monday, has already infuriated a diverse range of interests, including feminists because of his hardline opposition to women priests and homosexuals for refusing to serve them communion. Among his more colorful pronouncements was the assertion that homosexuality was a "greater health hazard than smoking" because of the risk of AIDS. *AFP*

Monks get high on drugs

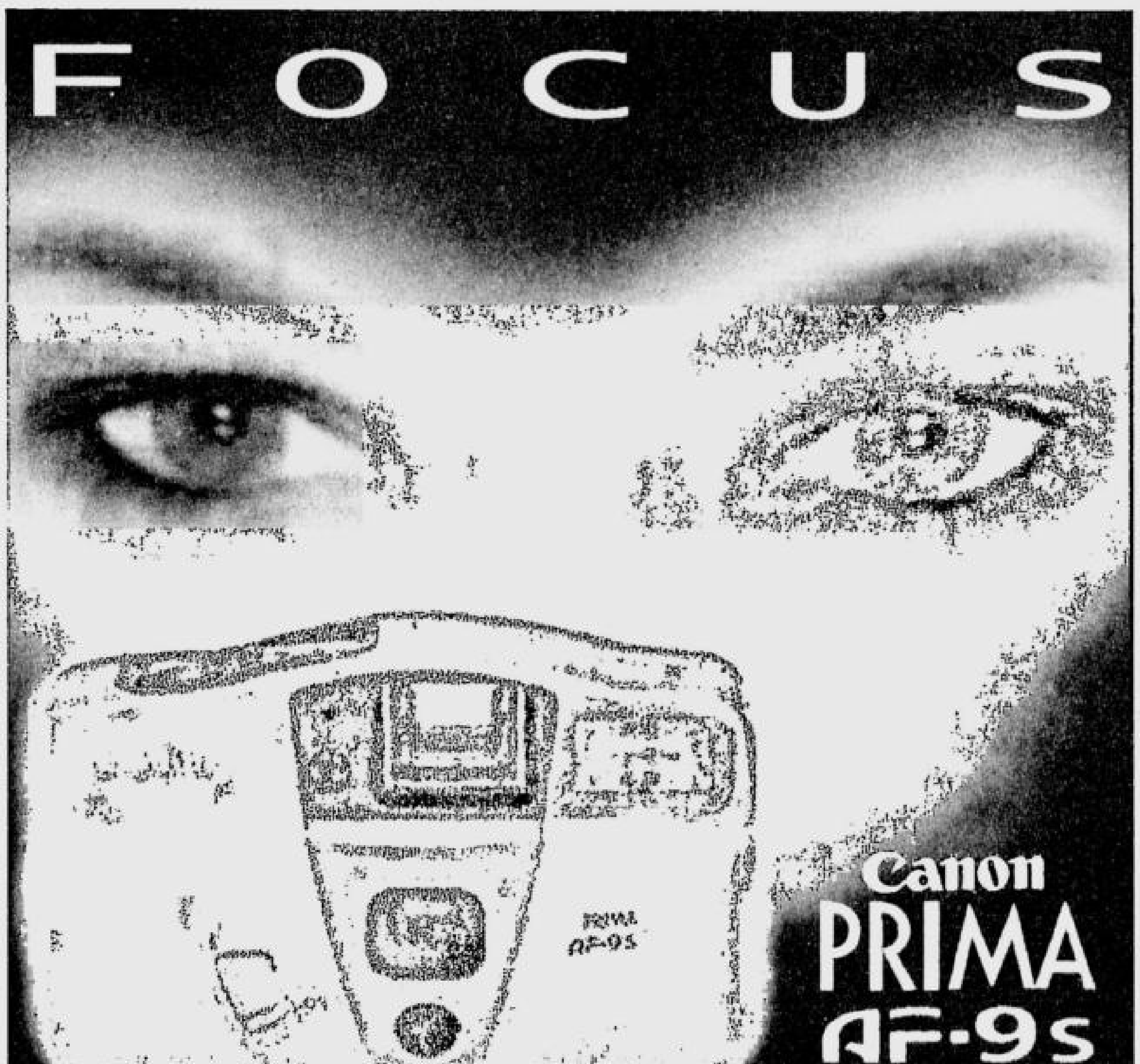
BANGKOK—Thai police seized 16,000 methamphetamine pills from a Buddhist temple in Bangkok yesterday, a day after a religious expert estimated that 10 percent of the country's monks are addicts. Police Lt. Col. Supachai Phumee said resident monks had spotted a suspicious object in a pond at Rachatiwat temple in the capital and informed police, who found it was a sealed bin that contained the drugs. On Monday, Manop Polparin, an expert with the government religious affairs department, told an Interior Ministry seminar that use of methamphetamines was widespread in monasteries. Manop told the seminar that at least 10 percent of the more than 300,000 monks and novices nationwide were taking methamphetamines, the illegal stimulant known locally as "yaa baa" or "crazy drug." *AP*

Junta softens stand on Suu Kyi

RANGOON—Burma's military junta yesterday ruled out ushering democracy in a haste, but indicated that it is willing to work "collectively" with opposition groups to bring stability to the country. In a speech to mark the Armed Forces Day, junta leader Gen. Than Shwe said Bumra experienced "chaos and instability" when it adopted multiparty democracy after gaining independence from Britain in 1948. "Lessons from history teach us to act with caution forever," he said. However, Than Shwe's 20-minute speech carried a conciliatory tone by not castigating the NLD or Suu Kyi as officials speeches have done in the past. The junta, facing intense international pressure and criticism, is reported to be engaged in closed-door talks with Suu Kyi despite keeping her under house detention since Sept. 22 for her pro-democracy work. *AP*

Crackdown on Internet child porn

WASHINGTON—US Customs agents and Moscow police have dismantled a child pornography business operating via the Internet, and arrested four suspected customers in the United States, the US Customs Service said Monday. Operating out of Moscow under the trade-name Blue Orchid, the business produced and distributed, via a website, videos showing physical and sexual abuse of boys aged eight years and older, said Kevin Delli-Colli, director of the US Customs Cyber Smuggling Center. The videos were mainly sold to customers in the United States, at $200-300 each. The Moscow police in May requested US help in finding out who was behind the business. In a sting operation, the Cyber Smuggling Center made an undercover purchase from the website, and helped the Russian officers follow the trail back to the pornographers, Delli-Colli said at a news conference here. *AFP*



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Macedonia gets Nato's full support; rebels on the run

SKOPJE—Macedonian troops dislodged ethnic Albanian rebels from several strongholds in the northwestern hills Monday as Nato threw the weight of the entire international community behind the government.

The Skopje government announced its troops had taken control of the northwestern hills where the rebels have been operating and that there were no civilian casualties.

The rebels had been put to flight, "panic-stricken terrorists in disarray," according to defense ministry spokesperson Georgi Trendafilov.

Meanwhile, some 2,000 refugees poured into neighboring southern Kosovo, after walking some 10 hours across mountainous terrain to escape the fighting.

In a move, which caused mild surprise in certain quarters, Nato Secretary General George Robertson praised the Macedonian government for their "commendable restraint," rather than delivering an expected admonition about the use of force.

"The Macedonian government has acted with commendable restraint and determined firmness and they have said they intend to continue with this policy which has been so successful to date," Robertson said after talks with President Boris Trajkovski and EU foreign and security policy chief Javier Solana.

He also praised the fact that dialogue between the ethnic groups in the country, chiefly the Slav majority and the Albanian minority, was under way and would be "intensified."

"The objective is a united Macedonia, a Macedonia united against those who use violence to try to achieve political objectives," the Nato chief said.

· In what was a busy day for Robertson, he had earlier warned the guerrillas there was "no future in using guns."

The visits came as the Macedonian government claimed victory over the Albanian rebels, following a concerted operation to flush them out of the northern hills.

"The operation ended with panic-stricken terrorists in disarray, having suffered many casualties and trying to gather together to plan another attack," Trendafilov said.

He added that the security forces were still in the hills above the northwestern town of Tetovo, where they had captured seven rebel-held villages, even though "the intensity of the action has been decreased."

"All entries and exits to the hills are now in government control and the armed forces came through the operation unscathed and without a single casualty," he said.

In one incident, a vehicle hit an anti-tank mine but no one was injured.

Government spokesperson Antonio Milososki said there had been no civilian casualties due to "our defense forces not using excessive force." *AFP*

Suharto crony consigned to prison island

JAKARTA—An imprisoned business partner of ex-dictator Suharto was transferred yesterday from a Jakarta jail to serve out the rest of his sentence on a notorious prison island, officials said.

Mohamad "Bob" Hasan was moved to Nusakambangan due to fears he might try to escape, said La Ode Amir Pago, head warden at Cipinang penitentiary, where Hasan had been locked up since last month.

In 1996, businessman Edy Tansil, who was serving a 20-year sentence for graft, broke out from Cipinang after allegedly bribing prison wardens.

In February, a Jakarta appeal court sentenced Hasan to six years in jail for his role in a multimillion-dollar scam involving a forest mapping project in the early 1990s.

Pago said that armed guards escorted Hasan to the penal island near the central Javanese town of Cilicap, about 300 km southwest of Jakarta.

During the Suharto era, Hasan became one of Indonesia's richest tycoons and was regarded as a close adviser to the former strongman. In return for his loyalty, he was granted a long list of lucrative government contracts and monopolies.

Indonesia's former colonial rulers the Dutch established a penal colony on Nusakambangan in 1923. It was considered the harshest prison in the Dutch East Indies.

Thousands of criminals and political prisoners, including novelist Pramoedya Ananta Toer, have been jailed there. *AP*

Police: Arson killed 58 boys

MACHAKOS, Kenya—Some 58 boys died Monday, burned beyond recognition in a school blaze in southeastern Kenya which police said was probably started deliberately.

At least one, and, according to several reports, both of the crowded room's doors were locked at the time of the fire.

The ruins of the single-story dormitory of Kyanguli Mixed Secondary School were still smoking midday Monday and still contained the charred remains of the dead boys huddled at one end of an aisle between tightly packed bunk beds.

Police said the fire started around 1:40 a.m. and that the dead were aged between 15 and 18.

An AFP journalist at the scene saw 57 bodies tagged, put in plastic bags and taken away in a truck.

"We suspect arson. We highly suspect that it was criminal," Julius Narangwi, the officer commanding Machakos police division, told reporters at the scene, some 60 km southeast of Nairobi.

"Already, there are some people talking about the smell of petrol," said Commissioner of Police Philemon Abongo. *AFP*

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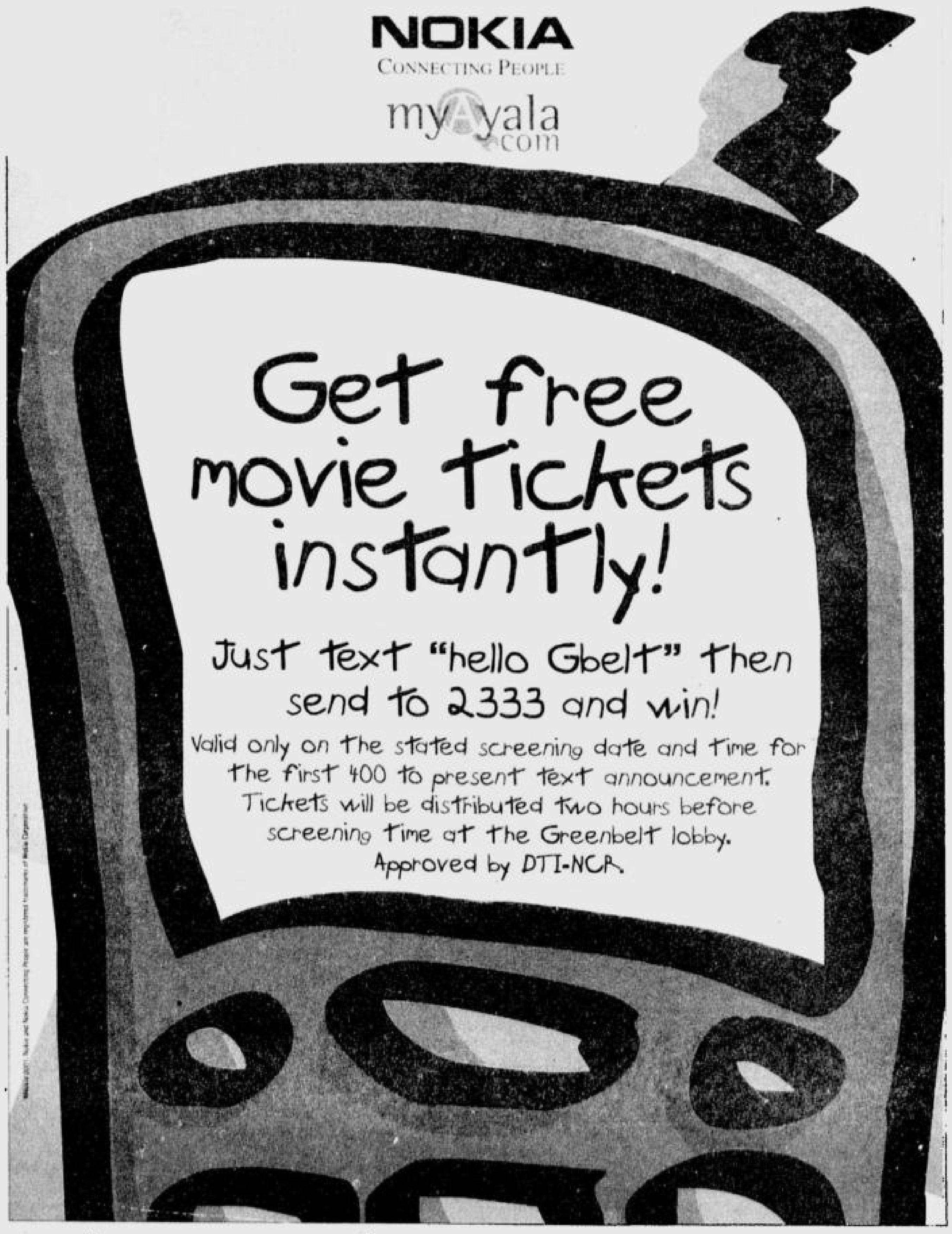

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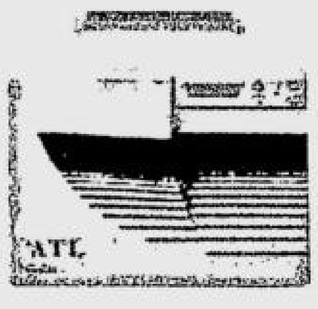

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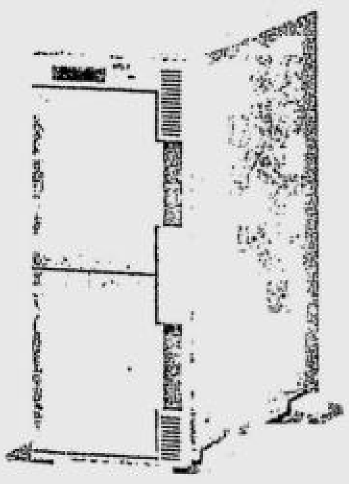

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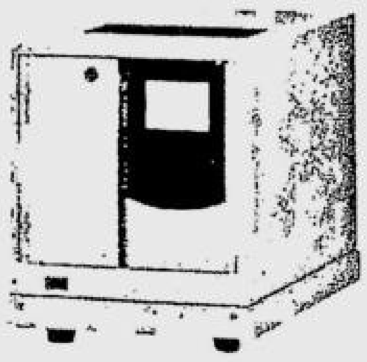

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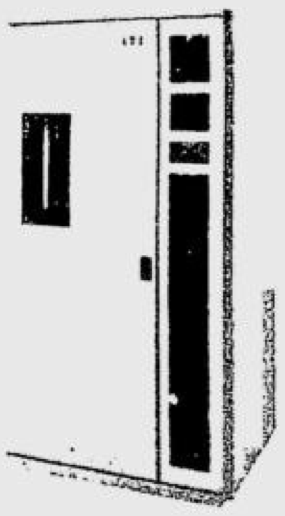

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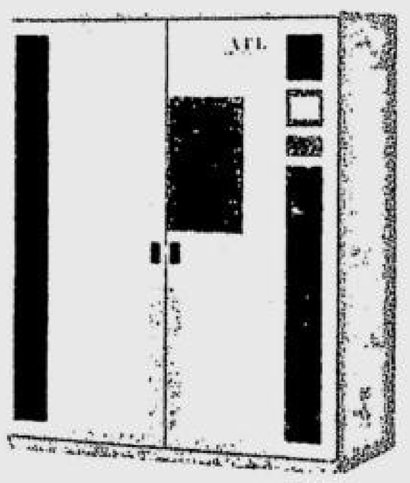

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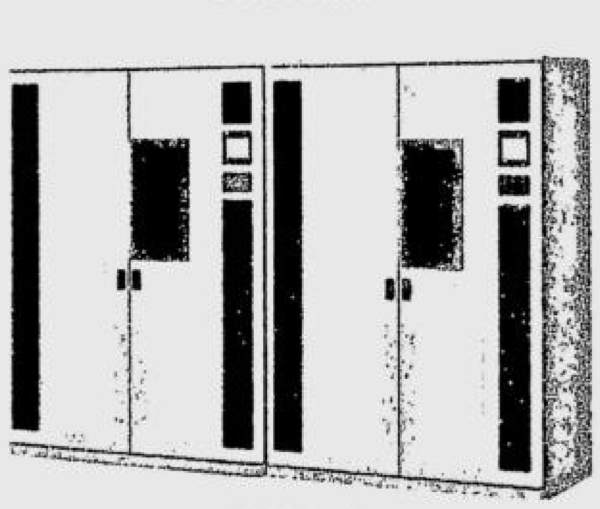

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Javier murder trial stalled anew

BY HAZEL VILLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—The new judge assigned to the 15-year-old Evelio Javier murder case yesterday reset the trial anew because he has to study first the case's voluminous records and hear pending issues related to the trial.

Judge Rudy Castrojas of the Regional Trial Court Branch 12 reset the trial to May 23, 24 and 25. He earlier set it for March 26, 27 and 28 after finishing an orientation seminar for new judges in Manila.

"The judge needs time to study the records of the case from the very beginning," said Provincial Prosecutor Napoleon Abiera.

Abiera said the records have reached seven volumes and trial documents are about three feet tall since the trial started in 1986. Three judges had since then handled the case. Castrojas replaced Judge Sylvia Jurao who now handles cases in Antique's RTC Branch 11.

Former assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, a close ally of the late dictator President Ferdinand Marcos, was named mastermind of the Javier murder on Feb. 11, 1986. Sixteen others stand trial as his co-accused.

Javier, then governor of Antique and staunch anti-Marcos advocate, was overseeing the canvassing of votes in the snap elections when heavily armed men gunned him down at the steps of the Provincial Capitol at around 10:30 a.m.

Pacificador was also accused as a mastermind in a separate case—the killing of nine supporters of Javier on May 13, 1984, the eve of the Batasang Pambansa elections, on the Pangpang Bridge in Sibalom town.

RTC Judge Nery Duremdes acquitted Pacificador of the Pangpang massacre on Feb. 16 this year, saying the prosecution failed to establish that Pacificador conspired with his security men to kill Javier's supporters.

With the Javier murder case trial reset to May 23-25, Castrojas is expected to resolve before then the issues raised before the court by state Prosecutor Leo Dacera and by the lawyers of Javier and Pacificador.

Among these issues were the submission of reactions by both parties to Castrojas' appointment to hear the Javier case, and the court resolution on the reinvestigation of accused Jimmy Punzalan who wants to turn state witness against Pacificador.

Castrojas also ordered the warden of the Antique Provincial Jail not to allow any of the accused to go out of jail without the court's prior approval. He gave the order amid charges that some of the accused were staying in the provincial jail's guest house which is not part of the jail itself.

Pacificador, now detained at the provincial jail in Binirayan Hills here together with some of his co-accused, has a pending petition to post bail so he could campaign.

Pacificador is running for governor of Antique. He is the lone Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) candidate in the province. Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. nominated him as KBL candidate for governor and provincial party chair.

Abiera said he was confident Pacificador would not get the court's nod for him to go out on bail to campaign. "He can't force the judge to grant him (Pacificador) bail so he can campaign because we have not yet finished presenting the evidence against the accused. Our presentation of evidence is not yet closed," Abiera said yesterday.

Castrojas is expected to decide on Pacificador's petition to post bail on or before March 30 when the campaign for local positions starts.

Pacificador faces in the gubernatorial race Sally Zaldivar Perez (LDP) and incumbent vice governor Damian Marfil (Reporma).

Pacificador earlier said he would withdraw his certificate of candidacy if the court does not grant him bail. "As I have said, it is useless to campaign behind bars," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Bacolod lights go off over 'oppressive' electricity rates

BY CARLA GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—For one hour Monday night, many households in this city went without electricity. There was no blackout. It was a voluntary shut-off by consumers.

Monday night was the first of the five-night protest action initiated by the Catholic Church-backed Negros Consumers' Watch Council over the continued practice of passing on to consumers the Purchase Power Adjustments (PPA) imposed by the National Power Corp.

The PPA represents the adjustments passed on by Napocor to electric companies such as the "Fuel Power Cost Adjustment" that covers the increase in the cost of fuel, power generated by independent power producers, and foreign exchange rate changes.

In the case of Bacolod City, electric consumers pay a basic rate of P3.03 per kilowatt-hour plus an additional P2.19 representing the PPA, or 72 percent of the basic rate, Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Ceneco) general manager Christopher Rios said yesterday.

While protest organizers could not quantify the number of households that joined the voluntary shut-off, it was widespread enough. Ceneco reported an 11.2 percent drop in its power load in Bacolod City during the shut-off period from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Ceneco supervisor Renilo Maguale said the cooperative's substations monitored a sharp drop in consumption at the time the campaign was launched by the NCWC.

He said the substations are equipped with meters that monitor changes in consumption. Ceneco's power load dropped to 52.924 megawatts from 59.594 megawatts from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Consumption slowly increased beyond 7:30 p.m. when it rose to 55.827 MW, he added.

Fr. Greg Patiño, NCWC chair, said they expected a slow start in the shut-off campaign but they are confident it would pick up by last night until Friday.

Kabankalan Bishop Vicente Navarra, also the administrator of the Diocese of Bacolod, yesterday reiterated his support for the protest against the PPA. A signature campaign against the continued passing on to consumer of the PPA is now being conducted in the dioceses of Kabankalan and Bacolod, Navarra said.

"Government agencies concerned must be made aware of this oppressive burden on our people," he said.

Patiño said they would also hold pickets in front of the offices of the Ceneco and the substations of the National Power Corp. within this week.

The NCWC, composed of about 20 cause-oriented and consumers groups, will cap their protest activities with a rally at the Bacolod plaza on March 30.

Rios said Ceneco respects the consumers' right to protest against the PPA through the one-hour voluntary shut-off. He said he was even joining the protest by shutting down power for one hour at his home starting last night.

Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias also protested the imposition of the PPA. She wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo last week asking the President to intervene and stop Napocor from passing on the "prohibitive and increasing cost" of the PPA to the consumers.

In the case of Negros Occidental, Ceneco charges 60 percent of the basic P3.3 per kilowatt-hour as PPA on its consumers. But the PPA in Southern Leyte accounts for only 37 percent of electric bills because its basic rate is higher at P7.20 per kwh.

Napocor president Jesus Alcordo, who was in Bacolod last week, could not do anything about the said PPA issue. ***With a report from Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Mayor's name taken out of list of voters

PAGADIAN CITY—Re-electionist Mayor Pablo Luna of Josefina town in Zamboanga del Sur may not even be able to vote for himself.

This came after a local court ordered the Commission on Elections to remove Luna's name from the official voters' registration list.

Josefina is a remote town in the easternmost part of Zamboanga del Sur.

Judge Camilo Tamin of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 23 in Zamboanga del Sur on March 6 ordered that Luna's name be removed from the voter's list in Precinct 10-A in Barangay Dawa in Josefina town.

The court said it found that Luna is a not a resident of Barangay Dawa. Five witnesses claimed that Luna has not resided in Barangay Dawa since his victory as mayor in 1995.

Luna has houses in the cities of Ozamiz and Dipolog.

After holding office in Josefina town, Luna, using a government-owned vehicle, would return to his home either in Ozamiz City or Dipolog City.

Judge Tamin said Luna, "by his own declaration," is actually residing in Dipolog City, where his wife is working as the accountant of the First Engineering District of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Luna also has a house in Manabay, Ozamiz City.

Luna admitted in court that he sleeps once or twice a month in Josefina. He also told the court that he has a residential lot in Barangay Dawa. The court, however, said it was "morally convinced" that Luna does not live in Josefina town, and is not qualified to register as a voter of the said town.

A case has been filed before the Comelec, seeking Luna's disqualification in the mayoralty race. ***Hernan P. de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

ON THE RUN AGAIN

ALLAN NAWAL

Pablo Villaber (in checkered polo), Lakas-NUCD candidate for a House seat in Davao del Sur, emerges from a court in the province following a court ruling releasing him of any liability on a swindling case of which he was earlier convicted.

Yasay bumped off from flight; airline says he came too late

BY ALEX V. PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Senatorial candidate Perfecto Yasay is demanding an apology from Air Philippines after he and nine other passengers were bumped off a 5:45 a.m. Dumaguete-bound flight Friday morning.

Yasay, who was supposed to speak during the Baccalaureate Service of the Silliman University High School, was told he could not board the flight because it was already fully booked.

"We were in line by 4:45 a.m. and by 5:30, we were told that it was too late for us to board. But the fact is we all were there early. The processing at the counter was just too slow," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

As a result, Yasay was not able to make it His message was faxed to Silliman and was read for him by Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Betty C Abregana.

This was the first time in Silliman's 100 year-history that a speaker failed to make it to the university graduation rites.

"I know it's a ground for a case unless no apologies would be given," said Yasay.

He said he was greatly embarrassed by the incident, especially because Air Philippines representatives here informed the Silliman high school teachers who were to welcome him at the Dumaguete airport that Yasay was a "no show."

But Leah Sison, Air Philippines assistant vice president for customer management, ruled out an apology for the former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Mr. Yasay was late for the flight. When he arrived, all the passengers were already (in the plane) We were supposed to leave at 5:45 and the plane took off at 5:51," she told the INQUIRER.

On the claim of Yasay that he was denied boarding at 5:30 a.m.. Sison said: "That would be late already, because we call for last check in at 5 a.m., 45 minutes before departure."

She also said suspicions that politics was behind Yasay's denied boarding was "not accurate."

News about the airline's non-accommodation of Yasay was greeted with suspicion in Dumaguete, especially since Air Philippines was controlled by Lucio Tan, a known ally of former President Estrada.

Yasay had testified in the impeachment trial that deposed President Estrada interfered in the investigation of the BW stock scandal involving Estrada's friend Dante Tan.

"It's very highly suspicious," said former Silliman president Cicero D. Calderon, adding that this was an abuse of the airline's franchise which should not be tolerated in a democratic society.

A check with Air Philippines showed that there were 99 passengers who took the 109-seat plane for Dumaguete.

Prof. Leticia Alcala, in exasperation mixed with jest, said "I have a faculty member named Lito Gatchalian (referring to the family name of the airline's previous owner) but he couldn't do something about Air Philippines."

Some parents also were saddened to hear the news. "It's very unfortunate because we were looking forward to hearing him speak," said engineer Gil Moncal.

Still others who had come only to hear Yasay speak left before the service started.

However, it did not fail to dampen the spirit of the graduating seniors. "It's okay as long as we can graduate," said Roy Banogon, who was starting to perspire in his purple toga.

Negros coal plant to operate in 2003

THE CENTRAL Negros Power Project in Pulupandan will meet its contract commitment to generate 50 megawatts of power for distribution by the Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Ceneco) in 2003 in spite of the withdrawal of one of its partners in the project.

This was disclosed in a statement yesterday by Facundo Yeneza, CNPP president, as he announced that the company has started talks with new foreign partners interested in taking the place of the Ogden Power Group in the project.

Yeneza said Ogden's withdrawal resulted from a strategic global evaluation of its power generation operations in Asia in November wherein the CNPP consortium was among those re-evaluated.

"While the CNPP consortium is saddened by Ogden's departure from the project, the early notice given us enabled us to respond swiftly and adequately. Consequently, CNPP does not foresee any major impact on the project's timetable for a financial closing by October this year," Yeneza said.

"It's a go, as far as the Central Negros Power Project is concerned," Yeneza said as he explained that the pioneering "clean-coal" technology power plant is already on its last mile having completed and complied with virtually every legal, environmental and energy-related regulations, issues and concerns.

Yeneza said the CNPP was issued an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) by the DENR in December after three years of compliance with all rules and regulations on environmentally sensitive projects set by the government.

Prior to the issuance of the ECC, the CNPP also complied with the requirements for community acceptance and also got the approval of the municipal council of Pulupandan.

Yeneza said Ogden's withdrawal from the project hardly affects the project's timetable. "In fact, pursuing the project to fully harness its 50 MW power generating capacity augurs well for the national economy as it will help meet the expected power shortage in the Visayas in 2004," Yeneza said.

He said the power project is among the first major investments to be fully implemented under the Macapagal administration.

Yeneza cited the following benefits provided by the $100-million project:

- It is the first of its kind to be established in the country and to use the latest "clean coal technology" using indigenous low grade coal.
- It would spur investments in the development of the country's rich indigenous coal and limestone deposits especially in Negros Occidental.
- The mining and transport of the CNPP's fuel requirements will boost economic and business activities in the province and region.
- It would generate at least 1,000 jobs during the construction of the power plant. Once operational, there are 100 new positions available.

'VERTICAL SPLIT'

Graft cause of feud in military

BAGUIO CITY—The "ideal" defense secretary should be a civilian to stop graft and corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines but newly-installed Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes is the only choice left to reform the service, former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado said here on Thursday.

"These are not ideal times," Mercado told reporters here as he proceeded with a Northern Luzon campaign tour for his senatorial bid.

But Mercado said Reyes is in the best position to mend this rift with reforms that will not rock the status quo.

Mercado, who was defense secretary under the Estrada administration and briefly under the Macapagal administration, said the fractured military appeared to be a "vertical" rupture dividing Filipino servicemen and a few corrupt military officials.

Reports about military infighting merely "misinterpreted" the real split, Mercado said.

"If we poll our soldiers today, they (will be) in support of reforms (and will be) against anomalies benefiting some top-ranking officers (that) put their very lives in jeopardy," Mercado said.

"The split, if there is a split, will not divide the military horizontally, but vertically," he said.

Mercado said he is banking on Reyes to continue a program transacting military hardware and supply purchases through the Internet.

He said the current feuds surrounding military purchase scams could distract authorities from an "E-commerce" solution to graft, which his administration introduced in 1999.

"(Retired Rear Admiral Guillermo Wong's charges of corruption) did not reach my office (when I was still in the DND). These purchases (military supplies) were usually done by each department, it no longer goes through us. . . but the government should start implementing the (E-commerce transaction) to make these transparent (and devoid of corruption). Then we will have no more of this infighting," he said.

Mercado stressed that the DND was the first agency to institutionalize E-commerce purchases using a local software design.

"I think (selecting Reyes for defense secretary) is a plus factor. We were together in (instituting) reforms. He is the best choice we can get from among the military officers," Mercado said.

But he stressed that government must invest in a civilian defense secretary, not only to assert the constitutionally guaranteed supremacy of civilians over the military, but to protect the Cabinet official from the pressures of "service loyalty," as well as classmates from the Philippine Military Academy.

He said he was the first civilian defense secretary after the 1986 Edsa Revolution, after Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's 14-year-stint during martial law.

"After (Enrile), there was a series of retired generals (who assumed the Cabinet defense post). I was the first (civilian defense secretary) after 1986. I do believe and assert that this position should ideally belong to a civilian . . . (who) is in the best position to institute reforms," he said.

Mercado said his two-and-a-half year stint under the Estrada administration managed to minimize corruption in the Philippine Veterans Administration Office (PVAO) as well as the AFP's Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS).

He said his purge of the country's military veterans' list saved some P1.2 billion from corruption, while reforms helped stabilize the RSBS.

"We were able to do that precisely because we were outsiders (from the military infrastructure)," Mercado said.

He said his crusade was supported by servicemen who realized that "an outsider" is now fighting for the "ordinary soldiers" who were otherwise unable to articulate their complaints against their senior officials. ***Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

28 gun ban violators held

CABANATUAN CITY—Police arrested at least 28 people in Nueva Ecija for violating the gun ban imposed by the Commission on Elections during this year's election period.

Senior Supt. Raul Bacalzo, acting Nueva Ecija police director, said the violators, arrested in operations against loose firearms, have been charged in court.

Bacalzo, in a radio interview here, said he has ordered his men to set up checkpoints for the strict implementation of the ban especially in villages that have been described as "election areas of concern."

"It appears that (some) people are unmindful of the ban. That's why there is a need for the police to be always on the alert," he said.

Sixty-six of 849 barangays in Nueva Ecija have been assessed by the Nueva Ecija police as election areas of concern, he said, adding that these villages are in 19 towns and four cities in the province.

Villages that were tagged election areas of concern are wracked with violence resulting from communist rebellion.

Bacalzo said two towns in Nueva Ecija—Gabaldon and Jaen—are torn by "intense political rivalry."

In Gabaldon, he said, the killing of the son of the female mayor was being blamed on her political rivals.

In Lupao, Bacalzo's report indicated that suspected NPA members were behind the killing of five policemen, including the town's deputy chief of police. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Unpaid loan led to Aussie's slaying

ILOILO CITY—Police here charged with murder a Civilian Volunteer Organization (CVO) member for the death last Thursday of Australian engineer Michael Tomas Tyler.

Senior Insp. Robert Foerster, police chief of Jaro District, said they filed the murder charges before the Iloilo City Prosecutor's Office against Salvador Laru-an, 48, based on the testimony of two witnesses.

"The witnesses said the suspect showed them a handgun during a drinking session minutes before Tyler's death," said Foerster.

They are still convincing another witness who saw Laru-an shoot Tyler to testify, he said.

"We consider the case solved. We are just solidifying our evidence," the police chief said.

Foerster said they are also waiting for the results of a paraffin test conducted on Laru-an. He said Laru-an could have used a 9 mm handgun to shoot Tyler. The firearm, however, remains missing.

He said Tyler angered Laru-an after Tyler asked Laru-an to pay for his loans. Based on a list found on the victim, Laru-an's latest payment was in February.

Police found Tyler bleeding from a gunshot wound inside his two-bedroom bungalow on Opal Street, Remonville Subdivision, Barangay Tabuc Suba in Jaro District.

He was brought to the West Visayas State University Hospital where he died minutes later.

Laru-an surrendered to police hours after Tyler's death. He admitted he had a fistfight with Tyler the night before the victim's death but denied he was the one who killed him. *Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU, CAPIZ SLAYINGS

Wave of violence kills 6 more

CEBU CITY—Six more persons were killed Sunday in a fresh wave of violence in Cebu and Capiz provinces.

A village chief and another official were killed Sunday afternoon during market day in a mountain village in the southern Cebu town of Sibonga because of an old political and personal grudge.

Pedro Paller, 64, barangay captain of Barangay Bae, and his deputy, Henry Lasaga, were killed after a group of armed men opened fire at them shortly after 5 p.m. at the village's market.

Also injured were Edgar Paller, son of Pedro, and their relative, Hazel Latoa, 8.

Police said Lasaga, Latoa and the Pallers were at a store in the market when five men in two motorcycles opened fire at them. Police identified the assailants as brothers Lulu, Rene, Nelson, Ronnie and Jonathan Carillo, of the same village.

Prescilla, the wife of Pedro, said her husband and the Carillos had been political enemies for the past 10 years since her husband challenged and won against then village chief Loreto Carillo, father of the five suspects, who was killed in 1991.

Police said revenge was the motive because the Carillo family believed that Loreto was killed by one of the sons of Pedro Paller.

Policemen failed to catch up with the fleeing Carillo brothers because of the rugged terrain in the area, reports said.

Two more victims of violence were reported Sunday in Jamindan, Capiz. Siblings Honorata Vergara, 43, and Rene, 40, were stabbed dead by their eldest brother, Leon.

Leon, now detained at the Jamindan police, would be charged with parricide, according to Insp. Dante Langurayan, chief of the Jamindan police.

In Pilar, Capiz, a policeman, SPO1 Pedias Rey Obligan, shot dead on Sunday a certain Maro Bacalucos of Barangay Natividad without provocation. The victim suffered a lone gunshot wound in the leg.

Obligar yesterday surrendered to the Pilar police.

Also in Pilar, the body of a man believed to be a victim of summary execution was found Monday in a grassy lot in Barangay Dulangan.

Police said the body of Erwin Projello, in his early 30s, bore a gunshot wound in the head inflicted by a 12-gauge shotgun and stab wounds in the neck. The assailants remain unidentified.

The killings took place just 24 hours after a drunken policeman went berserk in the northern Cebû town of Catmon and killed two persons and the massacre of a family of three in Jamindan, Capiz. *Roger Paller, Jhunnex Napallacan and Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Teachers slam NPA taxation

LEGAZPI CITY—The Social Action Center (SAC) of the Diocese of Legazpi here yesterday expressed concern over reports that the New People's Army are taxing teachers in far-flung villages.

Fr. Jun Barquez, SAC head, said public school teachers serving in mountainous villages are already burdened physically and economically.

"They are just like us who are already struggling to make both ends meet, so that it is very worrisome to hear that they are yet subjected to (the revolutionary) tax by our brothers in the mountains," Barquez said.

He added that this is a very sensitive issue of peace and order that must be tackled in the proper forum like in the peace initiatives of the government and the National Democratic Front.

Some public school teachers assigned to the hinterlands of Albay last week broke their silence, seeking a stop to the NPA taxation.

A teacher who refused to be identified said from 1980 to 1985 all teachers in a public high school in Barangay Malipo, Guinobatan, Albay, were made to pay P10 a week, or P40 a month.

Since 1986, the tax has been increased to P50 a month.

"We cannot refuse their demands because of fear. Some of them even come to our school armed with high-powered rifles just to show force. It terrifies us," said another.

She said she had been walking barefoot to school to save on buying a new pair of shoes.

The teacher claimed that it was their first attempt to tell the public their tale of terror in order to inform and challenge the new administration to stop the taxation.

The teachers had been emboldened by the presence of a new Army detachment in the area.

Farmers, sharecroppers and landowners in most of Bicol's mountainous areas, which are considered rebel-infested areas, are exacted a similar tax.

Sotero Llamas, former Bicol NPA chief and NDF consultant in the failed peace negotiations with the government, earlier told the INQUIRER that it is but right to impose local taxation in areas the NPA controls because they run the government in these areas.

"If we give the services that the government cannot give to the poor people in far-flung villages, it is but right to impose a certain amount of tax for our operation," Llamas said.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 33° Lo 24°	**Baguio** HI 24° Lo 15°	**Tuguegarao** HI 27° Lo 23°	**Laoag** HI 28° Lo 23°
Clark Zone HI 32° Lo 23°	**Tagaytay** HI 32° Lo 22°	**Legazpi** HI 32° Lo 25°	**Calapan** HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod HI 30° Lo 24°	**Roxas** HI 31° Lo 25°	**Cebu** HI 32° Lo 25°	**Tacloban** HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos HI 33° Lo 23°	**Zamboanga** HI 36° Lo 24°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 33° Lo 23°	**Davao** HI 33° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

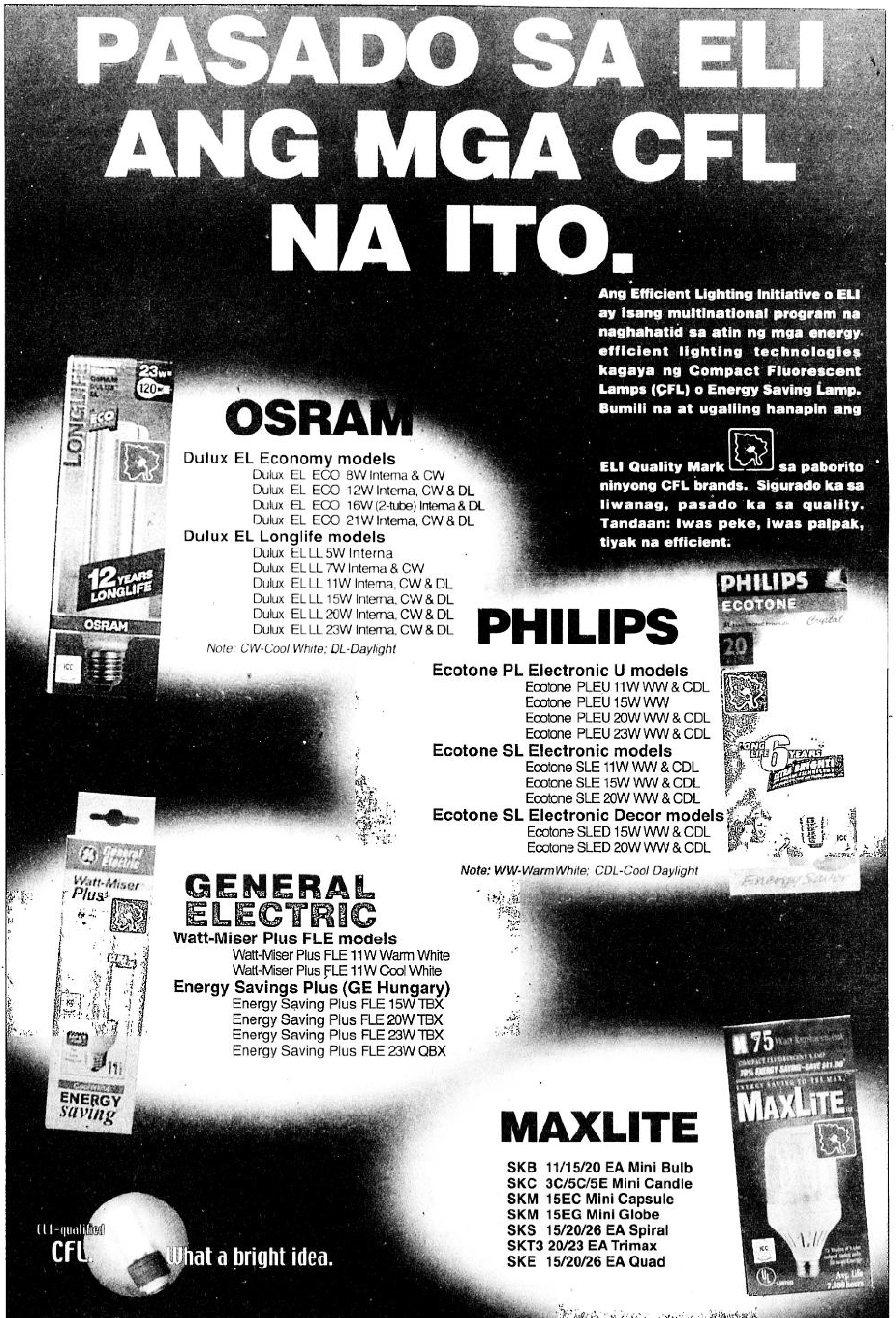
PDI BUREAUS

Northern Luzon Bureau
Central Luzon Desk
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail:
inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St.,
Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346 / 233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail:
pdivis@skyinet.net

Southern Luzon Bureau
Barangay 34 (Oro site),
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 480-8099
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail:
inq_bicol@inquirer.com .ph

Mindanao Bureau
479-c General Luna St.,
Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-7122
Fax No. (082) 227-6723
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.webling.com



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Dulux EL LL 7W Interna & CW
Dulux EL LL 11W Interna, CW & DL
Dulux EL LL 15W Interna, CW & DL
Dulux EL LL 20W Interna, CW & DL
Dulux EL LL 23W Interna, CW & DL
Note: CW-Cool White; DL-Daylight

PHILIPS
Ecotone PL Electronic U models
Ecotone PLEU 11W WW & CDL
Ecotone PLEU 15W WW
Ecotone PLEU 20W WW & CDL
Ecotone PLEU 23W WW & CDL
Ecotone SL Electronic models
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Ecotone SLE 15W WW & CDL
Ecotone SLE 20W WW & CDL
Ecotone SL Electronic Decor models
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Note: WW-WarmWhite; CDL-Cool Daylight

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Watt-Miser Plus FLE 11W Cool White
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Energy Saving Plus FLE 20W TBX
Energy Saving Plus FLE 23W TBX
Energy Saving Plus FLE 23W QBX

MAXLITE
SKB 11/15/20 EA Mini Bulb
SKC 3C/5C/5E Mini Candle
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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Thinking the Pinoy palate amid mad cow

BY MAURICE MALANES
Benguet

TIME was when the traditional Filipino diet depended on where one lived. Those who lived along the coastlines would rely mainly on fish and other seafood for their protein sources. The Igorot folk of old would get their protein mainly from wide varieties of upland beans and grains, and occasionally from meat when they would hold their traditional thanksgiving feasts called *cañao* or *pedit*.

Until now, most Igorot folk, particularly those in the hinterlands, still rely mainly on plant proteins and freshwater fish.

So traditionally the Filipino diet has been plant-centered. But thanks to the proponents of the steak and burger religion, the Filipino's healthier vegetable-fish-oriented taste buds shifted toward something meaty as steakhouses and burger chains continue to mushroom in urban areas from Tuguegarao City in Luzon to Davao City in Mindanao.

And proof that these establishments are cashing in on the Filipino's changing taste buds is that they now belong to the country's top 1,000 corporations.

With the mad cow and foot-and-mouth diseases now threatening cattle and livestock in the United Kingdom and other parts of Europe, which export a substantial amount of their livestock products to the Philippines, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor has advised Filipinos to patronize locally raised cattle and livestock.

Problem is how can Filipino consumers be assured that the processed meats they buy from the groceries, such as sausages, hotdogs and hams, or the burgers they eat in fastfood chains are not tainted?

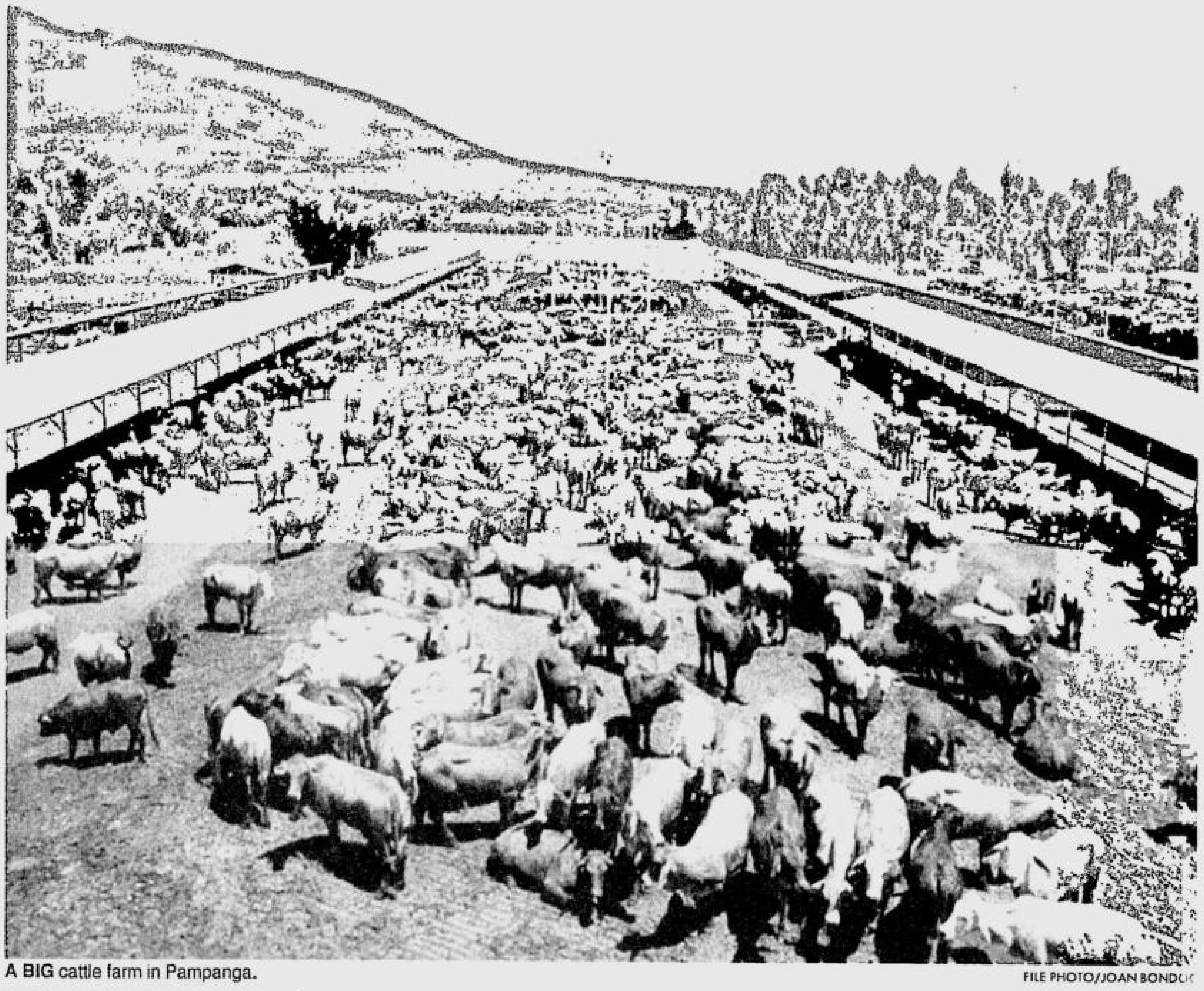
Advice

One good advice comes from Dr. Micaela Defiesta, Cordillera director of the National Nutritional Council.

"If it's not possible to eat beef and pork, we can go for fish," she said.

Fish, the traditional protein source in this archipelago, "unfortunately is not given priority," she said. "More and more Filipinos now go for burgers and steaks."

With the mad cow and foot-and-mouth diseases, Defiesta agrees with the suggestion that it is time for Filipinos to re-educate and re-orient their palates.


A BIG cattle farm in Pampanga.
FILE PHOTO/JOAN BONDUC

"If our forebears had simple but healthier taste buds, why can't we?" she asked. "My advice is for parents to put more fish in the diet of their children."

Fish, she said, has the same quality of protein than meat and has healthier polyunsaturated fats, which the body can easily absorb.

Other Filipinos, she said, can go for grains and legumes, and legume derivatives, such as tofu or soybean curd.

Defiesta said she saw the mad cow and foot-and-mouth diseases as an opportunity for concerned officials to look for, if not innovate, appropriate technologies and food security programs for various regions in the country.

Concerned government agencies and local government units, she suggested, could look at the prospects of further popularizing rice-and-fish culture which can help ensure food self-sufficiency in the localities, particularly in a landlocked region such as the Cordillera.

She also suggested the protection of the Cordillera's river systems that are rich in exotic fish species.

The Cordillera has seven major river systems and several tributaries, which have helped provide the protein sources of villagers since time immemorial. The rivers teem with eels, lobsters and various fish.

Mining operations and big dams, however, have threatened some of the river systems.

Still recovering from the pollution of a copper mine in the 1970s, for example, is the Amburayan River, the protein source of villagers from Kapangan and Atok in Benguet and those in the uplands of La Union.

The Agno River has also lost its exotic fish species because of mining operations in Itogon town and after the Binga and Ambuklao dams were built in the 1950s and 1960s.

Mining operations in Mankayan town also continue to threaten the Abra River.

If only to secure and ensure the health and nutrition of rural folk, Cordillera's river systems must also be secured and protected, Defiesta said.

HOMETOWN
Snapshots

This beauty queen can fight

NEWLY crowned Binibining Pilipinas-Universe Zorayda Ruth Andam **foresees herself as a "woman of principle, exuding beauty and character." But she did not say it just to please the pageant's judges on March 10.**

Andam's friends in Baguio City would attest that even before she could confidently answer a crucial question at the pageant, this 24-year-old woman had already been manifesting these valuable traits—integrity, wisdom and beauty—through the years.

And she did it with a good fight, especially when she believed that her rights had been trampled upon.

Andam, a law student of the University of the Philippines, first showed her mettle when the Supreme Court allowed UP officials to phase out her school, the UP College Baguio High School, on Aug. 17, 1989.

According to the Baguio Midland Courier, this year's Binibining Pilipinas-Universe was only 13 when she and her classmates closed ranks to bring their case not only to the court but also to the streets.

Popularly known then as the "Scratch Batch," about 70 teenagers, including Andam, left their classes to protest in front of the Senate, shouting "*Edukasyon, edukasyon, karapatan ng mamamayan*" to the delight of their parents who accompanied them to Manila.

Human rights lawyer **Pablito Sanidad**, who helped the batch in its first legal battle, said the students moved "heaven and earth" to save the UPCB High School.

Sanidad said he was impressed by the tenacity shown by Andam's class 12 years ago. Although he admitted that he could not remember the face of Andam anymore, Sanidad said he pitied the students who were forced to hold their classes under trees and inside a chapel. The Supreme Court reversed the lower court's decision not to close down the UPCB High School for good.

The UP Board of Regents decided to phase out the high school in 1989, saying it was not doing well academically.

The class, however, was later integrated into the Baguio City National High School and became the second batch of science students of the BCNHS.

In a letter to Sanidad, **Annette Tamino**, Andam's high school classmate, said she was blessed to be part of the "Scratch Batch" and to have a beauty queen-classmate like Andam, who was gifted with wisdom and talent.

"Rejection at an early age was as painful as a knife driving into our guts, but for all of us who stayed and decided to stick it out together, it was more than a baptism of fire," Tamino and her "Scratch Batch" classmates said in a letter.

"It was an experience that didn't strip us of our youthful ideals but hammered into us a permanent nail to be questing for what is right," they added.

In a show of gratitude to Sanidad, Andam's classmates gave him a framed picture of the class, now prominently displayed in Sanidad's law office in Baguio.

In that token, Andam wrote: "Thank you for encouraging us to fight for what we believed in."

From a small, feisty teenager to a 5'8" tall, smart beauty queen, Andam is now preparing for a bigger, more formidable battle in her life. She has to beat some 70 other women around the world to grab the Miss Universe title on May 11 in Puerto Rico.

"I know she will shine in that contest like the way she did when she was young," Sanidad said.

Gobleth Moulic

MISS TOURIS
ZORAYDA Ruth Andam: Part of the "Scratch Batch."
ERNIE SARMIENTO

Chasing dreams

FRIENDS and family have always known him to be something of a modern-day Don Quixote–forever chasing after dreams that many people think would never come true.

But **Teodoro Baguilat Jr.**, who is serving his second term as mayor of Kiangan, Ifugao, remains strong in his belief that even lofty dreams can come true even in the so-called dirty world of politics.

"I would like to believe that the people voted for me even if I did not have much money because they also believed in having a government they can be proud of. When you go to a nice place, there are so many nice things you can say about it. If there is one thing I want people to say about Kiangan, it will be that it has an effective government," Baguilat says.

Baguilat began his political career in 1992. He just finished his journalism course at the University of the Philippines and was working for several non-government organizations in his hometown. He felt such a high in helping people that his family encouraged him to take an elective position to help even more people.

He got the third most votes that year and there was no stopping him from there. Politics, after all, is in his blood.

The Baguilat family has long been involved in Ifugao politics even during the time when it was still part of Mt. Province. Baguilat's grandfather was deputy governor of Ifugao in the 1950s.

Baguilat was elected councilor in 1992 and mayor in 1995. He was also the youngest mayor of Kiangan and he is proud to say that he got the votes because of his platform of government, not because of guns, goons and gold.

Instead of goons, he got youth groups and NGOs as his machinery.

Baguilat won by a big majority during his first try and ran virtually unopposed when he sought a second term in 1998. With his term coming to an end in June, Baguilat has set his sights on running for governor of Ifugao.

BEN MOSES EBREO
MAYOR BAGUILAT

"What I would like to do is to unite all political factions, tribes, interest groups and religious sects in Ifugao so that we can all work toward improving our standard of living. I know that I will not be able to solve all problems if I am elected governor, but at least the people can be assured that I will be doing something," Baguilat says.

In 1996, he was awarded one of the 10 most outstanding civil servants for personally funding the scholarship of 80 students, pursuing a clean and green program and establishing sub-offices in the most remote areas in Ifugao.

He was named Outstanding Mayor of the Cordillera in 1997 by the weekly Baguio Midland Courier. He was also cited for putting up a foundation for children, the disabled and other disadvantaged sectors.

Despite a sterling track record, Baguilat is aware that the odds are stacked against him, considering that he is running against old guards in the political scene in Ifugao. His being single and 35 also does not help him too much, especially his decision to run as an independent candidate.

"It is tempting to ally myself with big and established politicians but I wanted to go independent so that I will be more flexible in the way I want to run the campaign and if I win, I will not have political debts," Baguilat says. *Tina Arceo-Dumlao*

Inquirer issue instead of Gloria portrait

HAS President Macapagal-Arroyo finally sat down for her official portrait? At the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City, the INQUIRER's Jan. 28 issue is displayed in lieu of the President's official portrait.

Longayban Hall, where the academy's guests are feted, has the front page of that issue framed above the fireplace.

Its previous occupant was the oil painting of deposed President **Joseph Estrada**.

Estrada's painting, which showed him clad in a *barong tagalog* and wearing his patented smirk, now hangs by its lonesome at an upper wall panel of the hall.

The other oil paintings of the other Philippine presidents are displayed counterclockwise around the walls.

The portraits of former Presidents **Ferdinand Marcos**, **Corazon Aquino** and **Fidel Ramos** occupy a panel.

PMA officials said the INQUIRER edition, its banner story reading "AFP salutes Gloria," was used because Malacañang still has to issue Ms Macapagal's official portrait.

"Until they gave us a copy of the official portrait, we have to use this," they said.

Actually, the INQUIRER's Feb. 28 issue seems appropriate as the portrait at the moment. It was only a week after Ms Macapagal was sworn into office by Chief Justice **Hilario Davide Jr.** The photograph has Ms Macapagal saluting soldiers in their green uniform during the PMA Alumni Association reunion at Camp Aguinaldo.

The photo, taken by INQUIRER photographer **Edwin Bacasmas**, occupied almost half of the page. *Frank Cimatu*

THE PRESIDENT'S men, from right: Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, at her regular press conference on Tuesday.

CBCP asks German, Swiss gov'ts to help recover Marcos wealth

By Norman Bordadora

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday called on Germany and Switzerland to help the Philippine government recover the billions of dollars of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth allegedly stashed in Irene Araneta's bank accounts in the two countries.

The CBCP, through its National Secretariat for Social Action (Nassa), likewise called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to use every resource of the Philippine government to ensure the prosecution of the Marcos family and the return of the illegally amassed wealth to the Filipino people.

In a statement, Nassa called on the two foreign governments to continue helping the country's investigators to track down the Marcos assets and gather enough evidence to prove Araneta's scheme to transfer billions of Marcos assets from Switzerland to Germany.

The secretariat asked Araneta, the late dictator's youngest daughter, and the rest of the Marcos family to make things easy for the country by returning their loot to the people and apologize.

The Nassa, the bishops' social action group for justice and peace, appealed to the Department of Justice and the Presidential Commission on Good Government to continue the quest for the recovery of the Marcos wealth and the prosecution of the Marcoses.

Gloria confirms KL accord; Moro rebs declare ceasefire

(From page A1)

in her effort to restore peace talks with Moro and communist insurgents since she was swept to office on Jan. 20.

Ms Macapagal also approved holding talks with communist rebels in a foreign country, removing a major stumbling block to renewed negotiations.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who is also secretary of foreign affairs, said the Cabinet's security committee recommended that talks be held in a Scandinavian country.

After preliminary talks early this month, the Marxist umbrella group, the National Democratic Front, and the government peace panel announced they would resume the talks in a "mutually acceptable foreign neutral venue" on April 27.

No details

Ms Macapagal declined to give details of the meeting with the MILF until after Ermita returns from Kuala Lumpur and briefs her on the accord.

She promised to call a press briefing today to spell out details of the agreement.

Executive Secretary Rene de Villa said the government did not intend to make the meeting a secret.

"It's not really a secret. It's just that they wanted to make sure that goodwill is initially built on both sides.

We are aware that it happened, but we cannot make a public statement until after (Ermita) comes back and gives a full briefing," De Villa said in an interview.

He said the government did not want to make a misstep.

On the objections of Jesus Dureza, head of the government peace panel that he was not informed about the talks, De Villa admitted that Dureza was kept out of the dark.

"He was only briefed lately," he said. "The truth of the matter is not all the members of the Cabinet really knew about it. I think both sides agreed that we have to do it that way."

In the dark

De Villa also did not reveal the MILF officials who met with Ermita. "They are high-ranking, authoritative personalities (of the MILF)," the executive secretary said.

Kabalu said observers from the 53-member Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) could also be present in the negotiations aimed at ending the MILF's 23-year rebellion.

The OIC helped broker a 1996 peace accord between Manila and the larger Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which renounced separatist rebellion and settled for limited Muslim self-rule in four southern provinces.

The MILF broke away from the MNLF in 1978 and was not included in the accord.

Ceasefire order

Kabalu said his group was set to issue a formal ceasefire order to its forces deployed in the main southern island of Mindanao.

In Davao City, hours before Ms Macapagal announced the signing of the accord with the MILF, Dureza denounced the alleged "intentionally done" leaks on the agreement.

He said the leaks were "not the correct way" in handling the talks, which he described as a "very delicate matter."

Dureza said the document signed by the government and MILF emissaries was not an agreement.

He said what was signed was the framework for the formal talks.

Ms Macapagal's ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada, ordered a military offensive against the MILF last year after Moro rebels expanded their camps and intensified attacks.

The offensive led to the collapse of talks between the Estrada administration and the MILF. The Moro rebels have said they want the camps back as part of a deal for the peace talks. ***With reports from AP, AFP and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Chavez: Araneta threat . . .

(From page A1)

Philippine government to investigate the Marcos wealth.

"And why am I still involved in this? Because I have been made dirty. And I will vindicate my name and prove that all the information I gave to the PCGG (Presidential Commission on Good Government), which had been misused in the past to make deals with the Marcoses, were all true," he said.

"I'm not a crusader, but I started the investigation and I am going to finish it," he said.

DOJ assistance

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she had instructed Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to assist the PCGG.

Perez said he had scheduled a meeting yesterday afternoon with Chavez about the matter, but the latter did not want the PCGG representative in the meeting.

He also confirmed the meeting yesterday in Germany by Philippine Embassy officials with the state prosecutors in Dusseldorf.

He said he would wait for the report from Germany to determine what needs to be done next.

"As of today, we don't have any evidence about the laundering, but we receive information that they (Irene and Greggy Araneta) did go to Germany to open a bank account. Whether they succeeded in laundering money or whether they made an attempt, we don't know yet until the report of the Philippine Embassy (comes in)," Perez said.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. is also looking for some "hard evidence" of the alleged money-laundering attempts by the Aranetas before resuming the Senate blue ribbon committee's inquiry into the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

Pimentel, committee chair, claimed that he was to meet Chavez last Sunday but the latter did not show up.

Asked if he would summon Irene Araneta, he said: "It really depends because I don't want to go into a useless exercise. I want to find out exactly what kind of hard evidence do we have," Pimentel said.

"My problem is if there is no other evidence, other witnesses who can lay down the basis for our calling her, or contradicting her when the time comes, I'm sure she will just go there and deny just like her mother. She has been denying everything," Pimentel said.

"I will prove that the money exists, and I will not stop until this gets transferred to the Philippines because that is the only way we can legitimately close this case," Jacobi told the INQUIRER.

As of June 1998, the Araneta accounts under Client No. 885931, contained $13.2 billion, but some of these funds had since been laundered to Liechtenstein, a tiny principality near Switzerland.

Counter suit

Jacobi said he would file a counter suit against Araneta's American partner in the money laundering attempt, Hank Hutcherson.

"I'm not concerned because I will counter-sue Hank for deliberately misleading and stalling the legitimate discovery efforts in the investigation (of the Marcos wealth)," he said.

Jacobi said that what Hutcherson and Curtiss Waters didn't realize was that he could not do any illegal act.

"He (Hank) wanted me to turn around and be dirty. He wanted me to get a dirty banker, for me to act illegally," he said.

"But I can't be bought, not ever," he said.

Jacobi said the people who had helped him financially over the past 12 years, since he had been hired by the PCGG, had always been "loyal," and that they knew how things stood.

"I couldn't be bought because our case has been transparent in our website," he said referring to their site, www.marcosbillions.com, which documented his investigation into the Marcos wealth.

"It would be ludicrous for me to take one dirty cent," he said.

Jacobi explained that he had "never given any person who has helped us a misleading statement in the recovery effort."

He said that it was clear that the Marcos money was ill-gotten, and that Hutcherson, Waters and Reyes knew about this, because this was declared by the Supreme Court, both in the Philippines and in Switzerland. They also knew about the nature of the case of the Marcoses which had been much publicized worldwide.

"If anybody would try to make me do something dirty, I will go to the police," he said.

"If you look at the history of Reiner Jacobi, I've always played fair and straight," he said.

The dismissal of his case in the United States and in the Philippine Department of Justice would prove this, he said.

PCGG contract

He recalled that he was the one whom the Philippine government had sought in late 1988 when he was vacationing with his wife, Anka, in Hong Kong, after finishing intelligence work with several US law enforcement agencies.

He said that the Philippine consul general then in Hong Kong, Vicente Reyes, issued a memorandum on the proposal for him to help the Philippine government investigate and recover the Marcos wealth.

The chair of the PCGG then was Mateo Caparas.

Jacobi claimed that he had been surprised that the PCGG had worked out a contract containing a 10-percent contingency fee agreement, which was to be paid only upon "legal recovery" of any Marcos wealth that he would discover.

"If I could go back to that time, maybe I would not have agreed to do this. I couldn't have imagined that I would go through this," he said referring to the times that the Swiss government had tried to extradite him for his role in helping the PCGG.

All extradition petitions in Germany, Hong Kong and Australia failed after courts found no evidence to support them.

"They can call me all the names that they want, but never ever call me dirty because I will get back at them," Jacobi said. "They will get their just dues."

"Just imagine, if they (the Aranetas) had succeeded (in laundering their money)," he said.

The reality is that there are really "dirty bankers" out there, the investigator explained.

But with what happened now, he said, "I doubt very much if any dirty banker in the world would touch the Marcos money. They would not dare."

Chavez said there was now no denial that the Aranetas owned accounts at UBS, including the controversial 885931 accounts.

The Aranetas executed no less than six documents on Feb. 14 inside Deutsche Bank, and presented themselves at the bank in Dusseldorf to open accounts. The German authorities are now investigating this matter.

Divert attention

Dr. David Chaikin, an anti-money laundering expert and resource speaker, and also the lawyer of Jacobi, said the Aranetas' lawyer had conveniently left out the fact that the German government is currently carrying out the investigation in this case.

"They're trying to divert attention from this fact," he said.

Chavez said it was "stupid" for the Araneta lawyer to claim that just because Irene did not indicate the amount she wanted to transfer, then the billions of dollars her account contained was not there.

He said there was a "great probability" that lawyer Eleazar Reyes would be haled before the Integrated Bar of the Philippines for "obstruction of justice and conspiracy in money laundering."

He said that what Reyes did was already beyond lawyering.

"It can't be said that he was engaged in law practice because he can't practice law in Switzerland and Germany," Chavez said.

"He (Reyes) was obviously aiding, abetting and conspiring with his clients in effecting the illegal transfer of funds from Switzerland to Germany, and then eventually to an obscure account that they alone would know," he said.

At the Third Division of the Sandiganbayan yesterday, Chavez testified for the 15th time against the widow of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, Imelda Marcos, in the graft cases concerning the Swiss foundations Rayby, Palmy, Trinidad and Maler. ***With a report from Juliet L. Javellana***

Woman pilot did not eject to save lives

(From page A1)

one of only six women combat pilots in the Philippine Air Force. The command has a total of 32 women pilots in active service.

At the height of the government's war against Moro rebels in Mindanao last year, Baloyo was one of the PAF pilots who led the attack on Camp Abubakar, the main camp of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, in Maguindanao.

On Monday, Baloyo, while flying the plane, saved three villages from what could have been a major disaster since the PAF and the United States Air Force made Clark their base in the 1940s.

There are indications that the bemedalled hero of Abubakar opted not to eject to steer the plane away from Lemens, Fil-Homes and Green Meadows, all residential subdivisions, according to Hotchkiss.

Sacrifice

"(She did that) even at the sacrifice of her own life," Hotchkiss told reporters in Clark yesterday.

The plane crashed in a 240-square-meter vacant lot at Fil-Homes in Barangay Mabiga in Mabalacat shortly before 4 p.m.

A nearby house and a warehouse were slightly damaged. Hotchkiss said their owners would be promptly compensated.

Baloyo's burnt body was still strapped to her seat belt when a PAF team recovered her at about 5 p.m. Monday amid heavy rains and fumes.

Baloyo and Nasayao were on a proficiency flight from Sangley to Clark and were said to be carrying an unknown quantity of inert bombs for use in training.

The bombs, which Hotchkiss said were properly stored, did not explode during the crash.

Before the crash, the two had alerted Clark International Airport tower personnel that they were experiencing engine trouble. They were supposed to land at Clark's Runway 20 but never reached it.

BEMEDALLED 1st Lt. Mary Grace Baloyo in happier times with her brother and parents Romeo and Annie Baloyo.

Hotchkiss said Nasayao recalled instructing Baloyo to eject. She never did.

"Everything happened too fast," he quoted Nasayao as saying.

Nasayao landed unconscious some 100 meters from the crash site. He suffered bruises in the chest and a wound in the right foot.

Jack Tongol, a resident, took him to a hospital in Clark. The pilot was transferred early yesterday to the AFP Medical Center in Quezon City.

The remains of Baloyo, a member of the Air Force Flying School Class '97, were flown from Clark to Sangley.

PAF probe

Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Air Force commanding general, ordered an investigation on Monday to determine the exact cause of the crash.

The probe would also retrace the activities of the two pilots 24 hours before the crash occurred.

Although investigators have yet to determine the actual cause of the crash, they suspect engine failure as the immediate cause, Col. Lino Lapinid, Air Force spokesperson, said in Manila.

He cited the distress call made by the pilots to the Air Force tower in Clark, who said they were experiencing engine failure.

A team from the 15th Strike Wing was still sifting through the plane debris for vital pieces of evidence.

Defensor has ordered a thorough investigation. He also ordered the grounding of the PAF's fleet of at least 15 OV-10 planes.

"We'll know the results of the investigation within the week," Lapinid said.

Numerous awards

Baloyo was a real hero, according to Sr. Scholastica Benitez, alumnae moderator of the pilot's high school alma mater, the St. Scholastica's Academy (SSA) in Bacolod.

The nun said she learned from Baloyo's family that the woman pilot could have ejected from the plane before it crashed but decided to maneuver it and ensure that it would not hit any of the houses on the ground.

It was a "selfless act of sacrificing her life for the safety of others," Benitez said. "She showed love for country. Very few would do that."

It was not the first time that Baloyo had shown heroism, according to her.

As a military pilot, she had received numerous awards for "conspicuous heroism and gallantry in action," Benitez said.

These included eight Gold Cross medals, two Distinguished Aviation Cross medals, and three military merit medals.

For her role in the fall of Abubakar, she was awarded an Aviation Cross, according to one of her former teachers, Teresita Liboon.

Baloyo, who graduated from high school at the SSA in 1991, received an achievement award from her school in December last year.

She was the Millennium Scholastican Awardee of the school's alumnae association, according to Josefa Puentevella, the group's president.

Liboon said Baloyo obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Airline Management from the Technical Institute of Cebu and studied at the PAF Flying School in Batangas City.

Her parents, Romeo and Annie Baloyo, own a meat store at the Libertad public market in Bacolod and live in Doña Juliana Heights subdivision, Liboon said.

She said she learned that Romeo left for Manila yesterday to get the body of his daughter. The Baloyo family wants her to be buried in Bacolod, she said. ***With reports from TJ Burgonio in Manila and Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

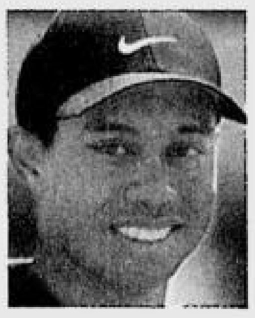
Woods wins again, pockets $1 million

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida—Tiger Woods held off a late charge from Fiji's Vijay Singh on Monday (Tuesday in Manila) to capture The Players Championship, his second straight victory after early season doubts.

Woods lost a duel with Hal Sutton in a similar Monday finish a year ago. This time, Woods didn't need much fight to finish a shot ahead of Masters winner Singh to take one of the few golf prizes he didn't already own.

"The victory means my slump's over," said Woods, the unquestioned favorite at the Masters in two weeks. "I feel as if I'm headed in the right direction," he said.

"It's nice to see the changes I made in my game pay off."



WOODS

On the 18th, where Woods was in the water Saturday, he drove into the rough, chipped out and got down in two putts for the victory and the $ 1,080,000 first prize. Singh, a Ponte Vedra Beach resident who regularly practices at the TPC at Sawgrass' Stadium Course, seemed to have the most motivation and the sharpest game to chase Woods down.

Woods had a 67 and was at 14-under 274. Singh had a 68.

Bernhard Langer of Germany was two shots back after a 67.

Little known Jerry Kelly of the United States had a 73 and was four off of Woods. There wasn't much magic in Woods' round, certainly none to match his twisting 60-footer for birdie on No. 17's island green Saturday or the 90-foot (27-meter) eagle chip on the second hole Sunday that first gave him the lead. It didn't matter as each challenge faltered.

Woods, who won the U.S. Amateur here at 18 years old in 1994, was pressed a bit when Singh recovered from a triple bogey on the 14th hole to go eagle-birdie on Nos. 16 and 17.

But moments after Singh hit his 10-foot (3-meter) birdie putt on the 17th, Woods tapped in for birdie on the 16th hole _ he barely lipped out a 50-foot (15-meter) eagle putt _ to restore his lead to two shots.

Woods scared the crowd and himself at the island hole, flying a 9-iron right of the flag that spun perilously close to the water. But like everything Monday, it settled into the rough and Woods left with par.

"I executed the shot just the way I wanted to, it slid a bit more in the wind," Woods said.

Singh tied things at 13-under with his 4-footer for birdie on the 13th hole. But Woods made his own birdie moments later on the 12th hole for a one-stroke lead.

Singh's chances ended for good in the water.

His drive on the 14th hole was a wild swing that headed left into the water. It was probably the worst stroke all week for Singh.

PSC holds seminar

CHAIR Butch Tuason of the Philippine Sports Commission will hold the Athletes Value Formation seminar beginning at 10 a.m. today at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium to orient athletes bound for the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games and other international events.

Speakers are Gerardo Jimenez, Robert. Aventajado, Ral Rosario and Eric Buhain.

Some 618 athletes are expected to attend.

Tuason will be joined by PSC Commissioners Amparo G. Lim, Cynthia N. Carreon, William I. Ramires and Ricardo R. Garcia.

Sta. Elena Cup on tomorrow

TWO of the country's leading amateurs, Angelo Que and Heidi Chua, will try to lead their member-partners to victory when the fifth Sta. Elena Cup unfolds tomorrow with 180 teams in the registry.

Que and Chua, who both have won their last two tournaments, will be teaming up with Philippine Sports Commissioner Richie Garcia and Val Chua, respectively, in the four-day bash that lured a number of low-handicappers.

The field will tee-off on two shotgun starts, the first at 7 a.m. and the second at 12:30 p.m.

Venice Godio will be seeking a repeat of last year's victory this time with a new partner, Toti Zara, as her original partner, Cynthia Antonio, is out of the country.

Sponsoring the event are the Rustan's Group of Companies, Audi, Toyota, Jomon Carpet, Diamond Motors, Volvo, Flying V, Shell, Ford Edsa, Kart Plaza, GG&A, Mayer Steel, Marsman Drysdale, PX Depot, Paramount Vinyl, Las Vegas Golf, Blue Cross, Mirant Philippines.

Hole-in-one prizes up for grabs are an Audi A4, Echo and a Camry from Toyota, a Yamaha cart, a Mitsubishi car and Maxfli Revolution golf set.

Format of play is Stableford with full handicap with male guests allowed to carry a maximum of 18 and ladies 24. There will be competitions in Class A for teams with a combined 0-9, Class B for 10-19 and Class C for 20 and above.

Other powerhouse tandems expected to fight it out in the Class A division are Iggy Clavecilla-Abel Rosal, Jojo Guingona-Mari Hechanova, Jingy Tuason-Panch Gallego and Bing Matoto-Cookie LaO.

Que goes into the tournament fresh from winning the PAL Interclub individual title and Chua the Southern Ladies crown. The two won the top awards in last week's National Amateur Circuit leg at Valley.

Liberica tilt slated

THE MOUNT Malarayat Golf and Country Club 2nd Liberica Golf Invitational, an annual member-guest golf invitational, will be played on March 31 and April 1. The competition is a team play set at all three courses of Lobo, Makulot and Malipunyo, under the Stableford system of scoring with handicaps applied. Enthusiastic members from the province of Batangas named the tournament after the first coffee tree planted in Lipa, the Liberica.

Hole-in-one prizes include a Ford F150, a Kawasaki Motor bike and prize money. Active Group Inc., Asian Spirit and Ford Motor Company are the major sponsors.

Jungolf circuit starts today

WITH the major support of Northwest Airlines, the Jungolf Foundation of the Philippines will be sending standouts of its annual summer circuit which starts today at Tagaytay Highlands and Riviera to two big tournaments in the United States.

Mrs. Amalia Montecillo and Merwin Mediana, chair and president of Jungolf, respectively, jointly announced yesterday that Northwest has agreed to bring those who excel in the 10-leg circuit to the US and compete against the best in the world.

Bata, The Pearl duel as friends

By June Navarro

EFREN "Bata" Reyes and Earl "The Pearl" Strickland alighted yesterday from the same vehicle that took them to the press conference of their much-awaited duel as friends.

Tomorrow, they will embark on a parallel endeavor but play as the bitterest of enemies as both cue masters cast a heavy eye on the San Miguel Beer $20,000 "The Color of Money II" title at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

Advantage, however, is tilted on Reyes' side of the spectrum owing to the highly partisan crowd, not to mention his come-from-behind triumph against Strickland during their race-to-120 Color of Money in Hong Kong back in 1996.

Reyes, trailing from Day One of their three-day encounter, turned the tables on the two-time world champion from North Carolina after overhauling an unimaginable 87-104 deficit to win the match, 120-117, and the $100,000 champion's purse that went with it.

Also, with a loser's break format, Reyes already has his foot on the title considering his feeble antics at the break. The champion will pocket $15,000 while the runner-up will settle for $5,000.

But don't count Strickland out. He's not about to ride into the sunset, not with his recent victory over Reyes in the US-RP 9-Ball Challenge held in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

"He can outdo me in the safety game, a reason why I have to be on top of my defensive game," said Strickland, who copped his fifth US Open title last year.

Strickland also bared had he opted to stick it out with the original race-to-100 format, he could have won part I of their exhausting one-on-one confrontation.

"Playing a hundred matches is short, so I requested that the battle be protracted to 20 more games," said Strickland. "Now I realized I should have shut my mouth."

With 85 international tournament titles tucked under his belt, Strickland is considered the winningest pool player in high-wire global billiards action, a known fact Reyes readily acknowledged but somehow continued to ignore.

"On the table, anything can happen. It depends entirely on the mood and luck of the players," said Reyes in Tagalog.

Spiced up by unknown cue players Leonardo Didal and Dennis Orcullo, the tournament features a race-to-11 battle that starts at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

Kuerten upset in Ericsson

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida—Top-seeded Gustavo Kuerten made another early hardcourt exit, losing to Swede Thomas Johansson 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in the third round of the Ericsson Open.

No. 3 Andre Agassi and No. 8 Patrick Rafter are the top-seeded players left in their half of the draw.

Agassi eliminated David Prinosil, 6-1, 6-3, and Rafter beat Francisco Clavet, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Kuerten's defeat means both of last year's finalists have been eliminated. Pete Sampras, who beat Kuerten for the Ericsson title in 2000, lost Sunday to Andy Roddick.

In women's play, Venus and Serena Williams won to join Jennifer Capriati, Martina Hingis and Lindsay Davenport into the next round. *AP*

Enriquez double champion

ZAMBOANGA—Lani Enriquez of Isabela, Basilan turned back club entry Noemi Damian, 6-4, 6-3, to bag the girls' 12-under division Sunday at the close of the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop here.

Enriquez also nipped Vincent Lim of Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, 8-5, in the unisex 10-under class to become a double titlist in the Milo netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Adidas.

Enriquez shared the limelight with Lemuel Go, who edged James Mesa of Davao, 7-6, 6-0, in the boys' 12-under bracket.

Other winners were Michael Mesa, Ronnie Lumayag and Mae Pabugais.

On hand to award the Milo trophies were Zamboanga City Lawn Tennis Association's Orlando Go and project director James Ramirez.

Complete NBA results

Philadelphia 90, Milwaukee 78; Denver 109, Chicago 104, OT; Dallas 98, Utah 90; Phoenix 104, L.A. Lakers 83; Seattle 104, Cleveland 86; Portland 104, L.A. Clippers 96; New York 89, Golden State 87, OT. **AP**

Get up and go

WHAT CAN I SAY

Bebo Quiros

26 MARCH '01. Barrio Tibig, Silang, Cavite. On a hillside overlooking what once was a magnificent mango plantation. Philtobo directors Eric Tagle and Raymund Puyat hosted a typical Pinoy lunch of lechon, broiled fish and veggies for fellow Philtobo directors, Nonoy Niles, Johnny Tionloc, Mar Tirona, Congressman Dondon Bagatsing and visitors from Singapore representing PWD Consultants Pte. Ltd. Head honcho among the Singaporeans was Hoong Bee Lok, PWD Executive Vice President. Completing his group were Gan Lian Seng, VP for International Business Development and Ong Koh Wee Nah, Senior VP for Special Projects. Their local counterpart, Kenneth P.K. Loh, served as liaison for PWD Corp Philippines. PWD are the builders of Kranji racecourse in Singapore.

What most of us racing folk don't know is that Eric and Raymund have already begun the nuts-and-bolts process of putting up an ambitious race course project of international standards and design. Architectural and engineering plans have been drawn up by Australian consultants, Thoroughbred Racing Bureau Pty. Ltd. (38 Apex Ave., Hampton East, Victoria, Australia). The race course site is the aforementioned mango plantation. Seventy-four hectares in size, it is situated on one of the highest points in Silang overlooking the future metropolis of Santa Rosa, Laguna, with magnificent vistas of Laguna de Bay, Mt. Makiling, the Tagaytay ridge, and in places, even Manila Bay to the west. Bo. Tibig is adjacent to Ayala's Westgrove and San Miguel's Wedgewood residential projects in Silang. On a cemented right-of-way, it is less than fifteen minutes from the Laguna Technopark. From the Southern Luzon Expressway, egress will be thru the Mamplasan and Sta. Rosa inter-changes.

Eric and Raymund envision the racecourse to be part of a total tourism package. Casino and lodging facilities are part of the long-range plan. Consultation with Pagcor and DOT's Dick Gordon are on going. With twelve golf course facilities within thirty minutes drive from the project site, it is not difficult to promote golf-plus-racing packages to the fun-loving Asian tourist.

We are confident that with the get-up-and-go spirit of these two entrepreneurial friends of ours, international class racing in the Philippines may one day become a reality. For the moment, our best wishes go with them.

Visitors

This week we welcome back Lee Fleming to our shores. He is flying home to Sydney thru Manila on his way back from the Dubai World Cup. Lee was a very interested spectator at the Cup over the weekend. Carrying the flag for New Zealand in the Dubai Duty Free Stakes, (G2) the second best feature on the card, was the New Zealand-bred champion Sunline. Sunline's sire, Desert Sun, stands at Lee's well-appointed Eliza Park in Victoria.

Lee is coming back to continue conversations with current and future racetrack operators on sourcing Australian-bred fillies to fill up local racing stables. Philtobo director Koko Cayco is working out the arrangements.

Arriving sometime today is Kiwi friend Ian McKean with a shipment of race fillies for Philippine clients. Ian has visited Manila many a time losing his heart to a Filipina on more than one occasion. Alas, it was never meant to be. Ian will be delighted to hear about the progress of the progeny of Khozaam and Conquistarose. These successful stallions were purchased by Ian for the Philippines.

Of interest to all of us invested in Khozaam is news that Naroussa, one of the old boy's last Kiwi crop of seventeen foals, won the Group 3 Dunedin Gold Cup, on 17 February '01. The Dunedin Gold Cup is one of the most prestigious races held in the South Island of New Zealand. As a five-year-old, Naroussa was thought of as a Melbourne Cup hopeful. Maybe this November as a seven-year-old.

Welcome back, friends.

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▣ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Shell eyes Top 4

Bong Tan, Cariaso summoned today

PBA STANDINGS

	W	L
Shell	8	3
SMB	7	4
Red Bull	6	5
Ginebra	6	5
Pop Cola	6	5
Purefoods	6	6
Mobiline	5	6
Alaska	5	6
Tanduay	4	8
Sta. Lucia	3	8

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports)
5:15 p.m.—Mobiline vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Shell

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SHELL Velocity shoots for an outright place in the Top 4 of the quarterfinals even as Tanduay Gold owner Bong Tan and players Jeffrey Cariaso and Bonel Balingit appear before PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino today to air their sides regarding their outburst last Sunday.

The Turbochargers could also pull away from the field aside from snaring the All-Filipino Cup twice-to-beat incentive if they win over ousted team Sta. Lucia Realty at Philsports.

Mobiline and Alaska try to move up in the standings and secure a berth in the eight-team quarterfinals when they collide in the curtain-raiser.

But before action shifts to the hardcourt, Tan, along with Cariaso, Balingit and Dan Rose of the coaching staff, will meet with Bernardino to explain details on the incident that caused Cariaso's ejection and Tan's shocking technical foul.

It happened last Sunday when the Rhummasters protested what they perceived as sloppy officiating especially in the last few minutes of their game against Pop Cola. Tanduay eventually lost, 75-82.

Cariaso was given back-to-back technical fouls for allegedly badmouthing a referee, while Tan also got a T for stepping into the court. Rose and Balingit weren't slapped penalties during the game but they were summoned just the same.

UNDER a proposed scheme that is potentially good for the capitalists and alarmingly bad for labor in the PBA, the Commissioner's Office wants to freeze the salary cap to P36.3 million for the next three years.

This was learned by the Inquirer from reliable sources yesterday even as three other drastic measures included in the proposed amendments to the salary cap would surely put a halt to the spiraling cost of maintaining franchise players.

Atotubo upsets Paragua

NM Rodrigo Atotubo caused the biggest upset of the day as he turned back IM Mark Paragua in Round 5 of the 2001 National Chess Open eliminations at the Greenhills Shopping Complex yesterday. Sharing the limelight with Atotubo were Fide Master Alfonso Datu, NMs Jayson Gonzales, Rolly Martinez, Alla Sayson and Baguio-based Rolando Nolte. All have five points each.

A sequel long in coming

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

LONGTIME rivals Efren "Bata" Reyes and Earl "The Pearl" Strickland trade shots in a race-to-33, $20,000 9-ball series tomorrow and Saturday, marking a long-delayed sequel to their 1996 "Color of Money" marathon tournament in Hong Kong which ended in the Filipino's favor.

The Philippine version is smaller in terms of pot money and shorter in duration compared to the first match staged by the late entrepreneur Bob Moore who staked a whopping $100,000 prize money in the three-day, race-to-120 games at his own plush Ridgway's Pool bar in Wanchai.

Smooth-playing Reyes outlasted flamboyant Strickland in dramatic fashion, 120-117, after trailing from Day One of the arduous battle.

Recalling the classic match, former Associated Press writer Mario Roxas, now with Puyat Sports, said that Reyes was on the verge of defeat in the final minutes of the game, but unleashed a thrilling come-from-behind run to beat Strickland.

Mario recalled: "With Strickland leading Reyes by 17-games, 104-87, and the American needing only 16 wins to wrap up the match, the Filipino raced off to a bristling run that included 30 wins against Strickland's 11, tied the score at 111-all and proceeded to win to the cheers of the audience at Ridgway's Hong Kong, Moore's pool membership club and bar/restaurant in the district of Wanchai."

The fast-talking American, with his booming breaks and superb play, dominated the tournament in the first two days, but going into the third and seven-hour, 50 games finale that started at 8 p.m. and lasted at 2 a.m. the following day, the once brilliant game of the temperamental Strickland collapsed.

"I knew I was going to win when I reduced his lead to five (109-104)," said Reyes after the dramatic victory.

But in their "Color of Money" rematch here, Strickland, who is younger at 39, is tipped to exact revenge on 47-year-old Reyes.

Ana Freezer rips Hapee, 80-64

By Dennis Eroa

EVEN without a head coach and a legitimate slotman, Ana Freezer Specialists proved deadlier than ever.

Last night, Ana Freezer scored a lopsided 80-64 victory over disorganized Hapee Toothpaste for a rip-roaring start in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Team manager Rudy Mendoza, known for his passion for horseracing, alternated with skipper Rey Mendez and birthday celebrator Jun Molina in mapping out Ana's dizzying defensive patterns which laid to waste Hapee's offense.

"Everybody played with intensity. I'm glad for the boys," said Mendoza, who said he is still looking for a head coach. Ana came to the ballgame as underdog with the absence of slotman Ruel Buenaventura.

But Mendez, Roland Pascual, Ronald Tubid, Ariel Capus and Dondon and Robin Mendoza filled in the void by playing heads-up basketball all throughout.

Capus had six points as the Freezer Kings took a 54-49 lead in the third quarter.

In the last game, new recruit Francis Zamora played impressively as Montaña tripped Osaka Iridology, 69-58, also for its first win.

ANA FREEZER 80—Tubid 18, Capus 15, Pascual 11, Mendez 9, Mendoza 8, Artadi 6, Flores 5, R. Mendoza 4, De Castro 2, Vilar 2.

HAPEE 64—Baguio 12, Saquilayan 12, Binuya 9, Bajar 9, Mercado 6, Espiritu 6, Dy 5, Rivera 3, Lopez 2, Sison 0, Salangsang 0, Gelig 0.

Quarters: 17-22, 36-34, 54-49, 80-64.

IOC brass visit Paris

PARIS—Olympic officials visited a working class neighborhood north of Paris Monday where France wants to build the athletes' village for the 2008 Olympics. International Olympic Committee inspectors went to Saint-Denis on the first day of a visit to assess Paris' bid to host the 2008 games.

Bid organizers want to house athletes in what is now a disused industrial zone in the suburb, parts of which are run-down.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA - Toronto Raptors vs Miami Heat at 9 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on ESPN
TIVO NIT Semifinal #1 at 4 p.m. on ESPN
2001 NCAA Women's Tournament, Midwest Regional Final tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on ESPN
GOLF: PGA - The Players Championship, Third Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
TENNIS: WTA Evert Cup, Semifinals at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
Ericsson Open, Early Round Coverage, Day #6 at 6 p.m. (r) on ESPN
WRESTLING: WCW Worldwide at 3 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
SWIMMING: US NCAA Div.1 Women's Swimming & Diving at 11:30 a.m. on ESPN

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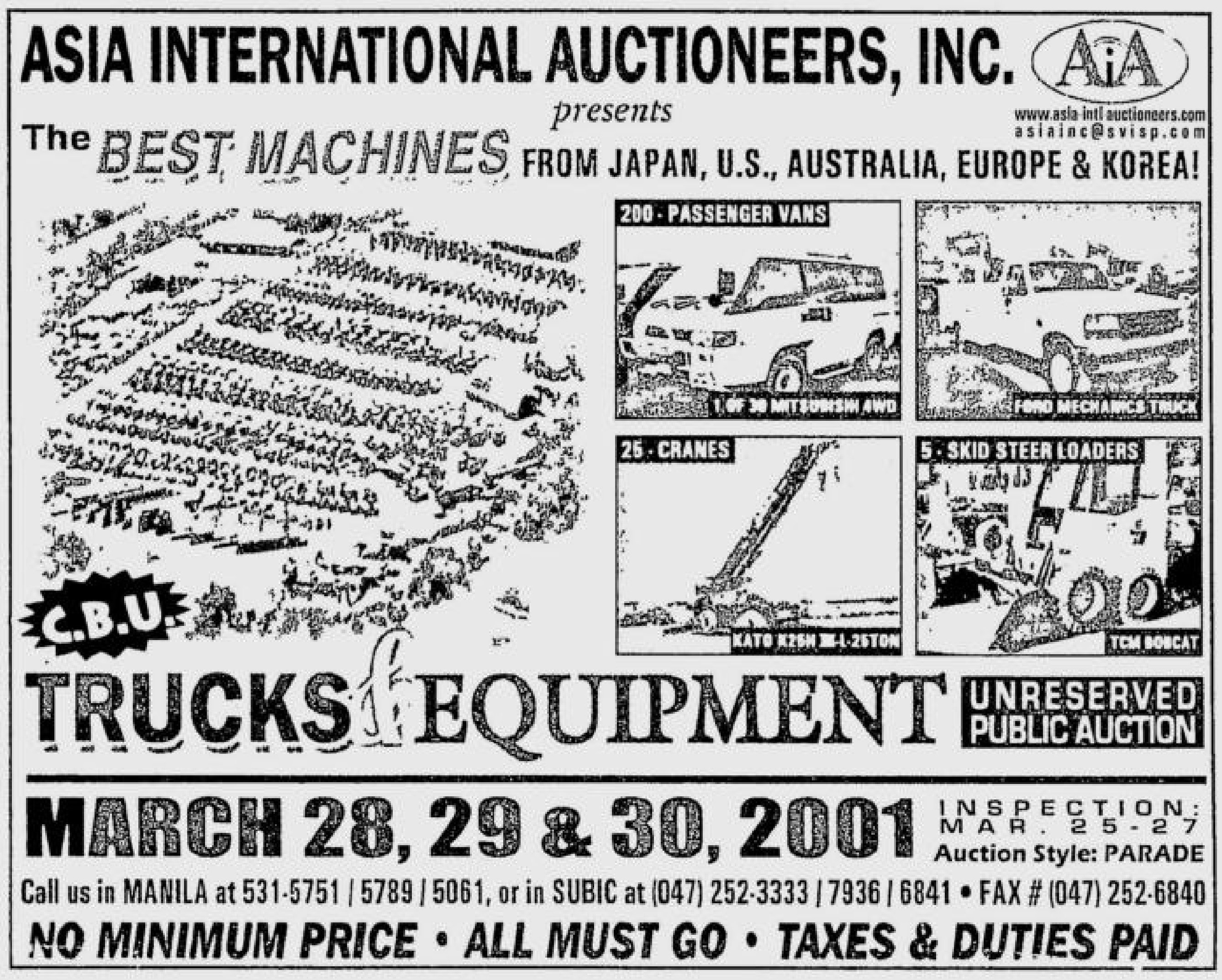

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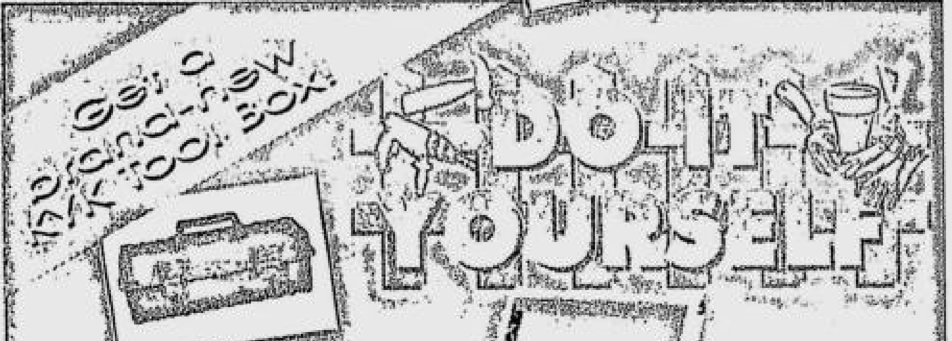
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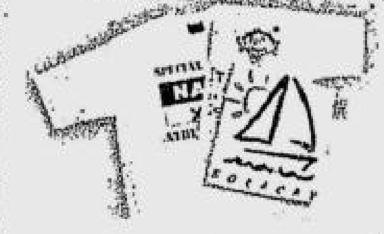
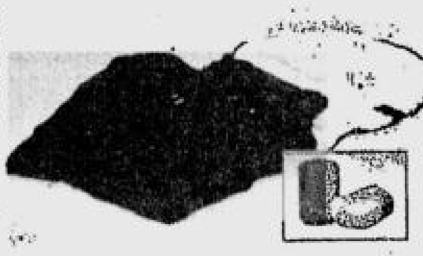
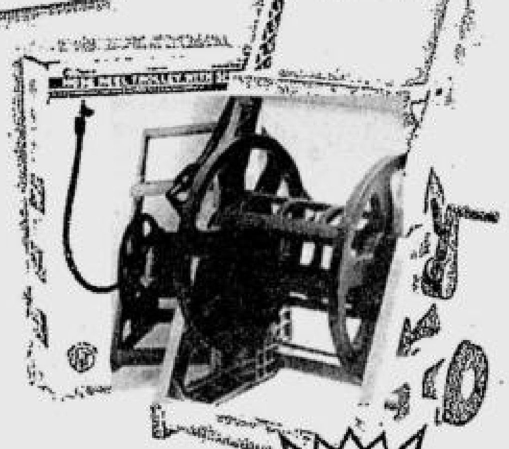


FUSE
T-shirt White
Assorted Prints
P95



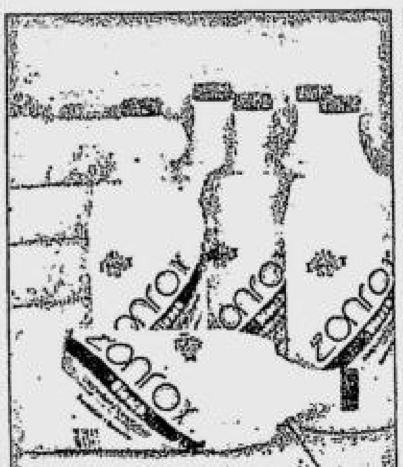
NB
Sleeping Bag
Cotton Lining Nylon
225x80x50 cm.
P549

NB Mountain Bike
Size 26, 21 Speed
Alloy Rim
with Accessories
P2,222

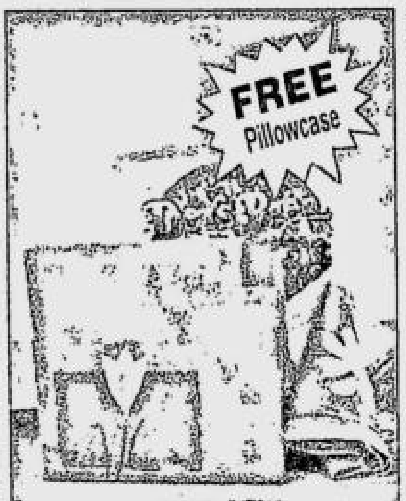


Hose Reel
KHR260/250
P945

LUX Shampoo
Amino Oils, Hot Oil
200 mL., 2's
P125



ZONROX
Bleach
Fresh Scent
1000 mL., 6's
P112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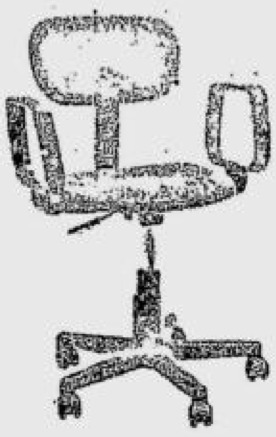
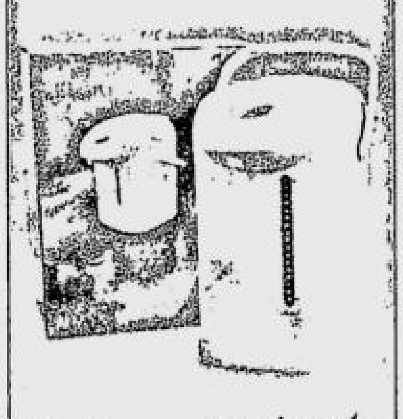
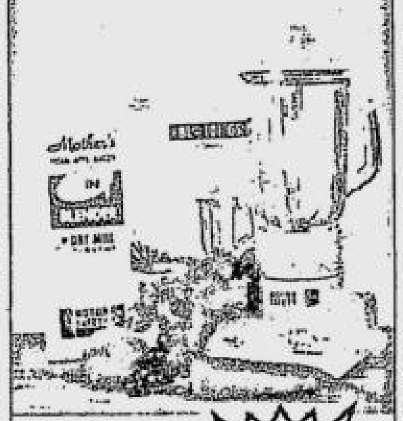
3 pcs. 80x90
P189



NB
Computer Chair
with Gaslift & Arms
801GA
P999



MOTHER'S
Electric Airpot
3.0 L. Capacity
MEA-30
P929



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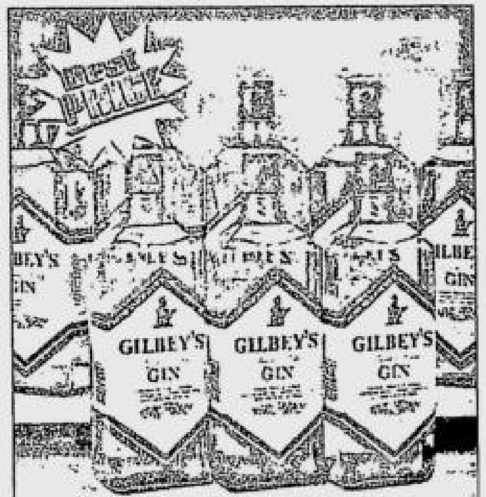

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P540
P90 per 750 mL.

FRITO LAY'S
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Bangus Belly
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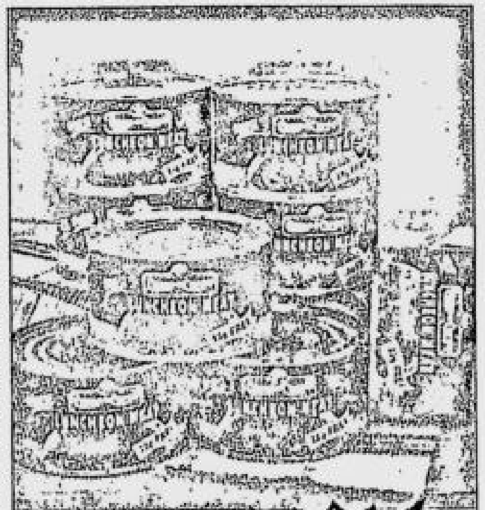

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Voter's Voice 2001 A24

Pa suspects military men in UST student's slay

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE FATHER of slain University of Sto. Tomas student Mark Chua has urged investigators to look into the possible involvement of soldiers and another UST student in the abduction and murder of his son Mark Chua.

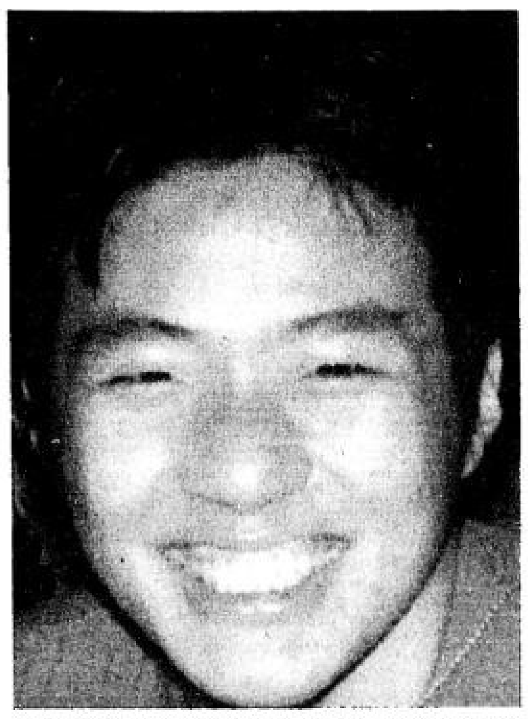
Mark's father Welson Chua on Monday said investigators should zero in on this angle as he noted that not a single witness has surfaced more than week after the murder of the young man who exposed alleged corruption in the school's ROTC program.

Chua said a morgue official told him that Mark could have been murdered by "someone with military background."

Chua quoted the morgue official as saying: "I've seen all kinds of murder, but Mark's case is different. It could have only been done by a professional, someone with military background."

Police investigators believe it was a revenge killing and have given

PA SUSPECTS/ A25



MARK Chua's family suspects soldiers are behind his killing.

'Policemen' steal P800,000 in gold coins from trader

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

GOLD coin trader Nicanor Magtibay-Roxas yesterday lost almost a million pesos worth of gold coins and other valuables to robbers who posed as policemen in Quezon City.

Roxas, 42, of 17 Scout Reyes St. in Barangay Roxas, Quezon City, thought the two men who posed as Traffic Management Group (TMG) members were bringing him and his friend to Camp Crame to check Roxas' car, which the men said was a stolen vehicle, said desk officer SPO4 Edmund Senido.

But before they got to Crame, the alleged TMG members; who have not been identified, announced the holdup and took Roxas' P30,000 Rolex wristwatch, P25,000 Omega watch, P42,000 in cash, an P18,000 cell phone, a P20,000 palm top computer, a P20,000 gold necklace, and 20 gold coins worth P800,000, Senido said.

Roxas' troubles started at about 10:45 a.m. yesterday while he was gassing up at the Shell station at the corner of E. Rodriguez Avenue and J. Jimenez Street, Senido said.

Two men in civilian clothes approached him and introduced themselves as TMG members,

POLICEMEN/ A25

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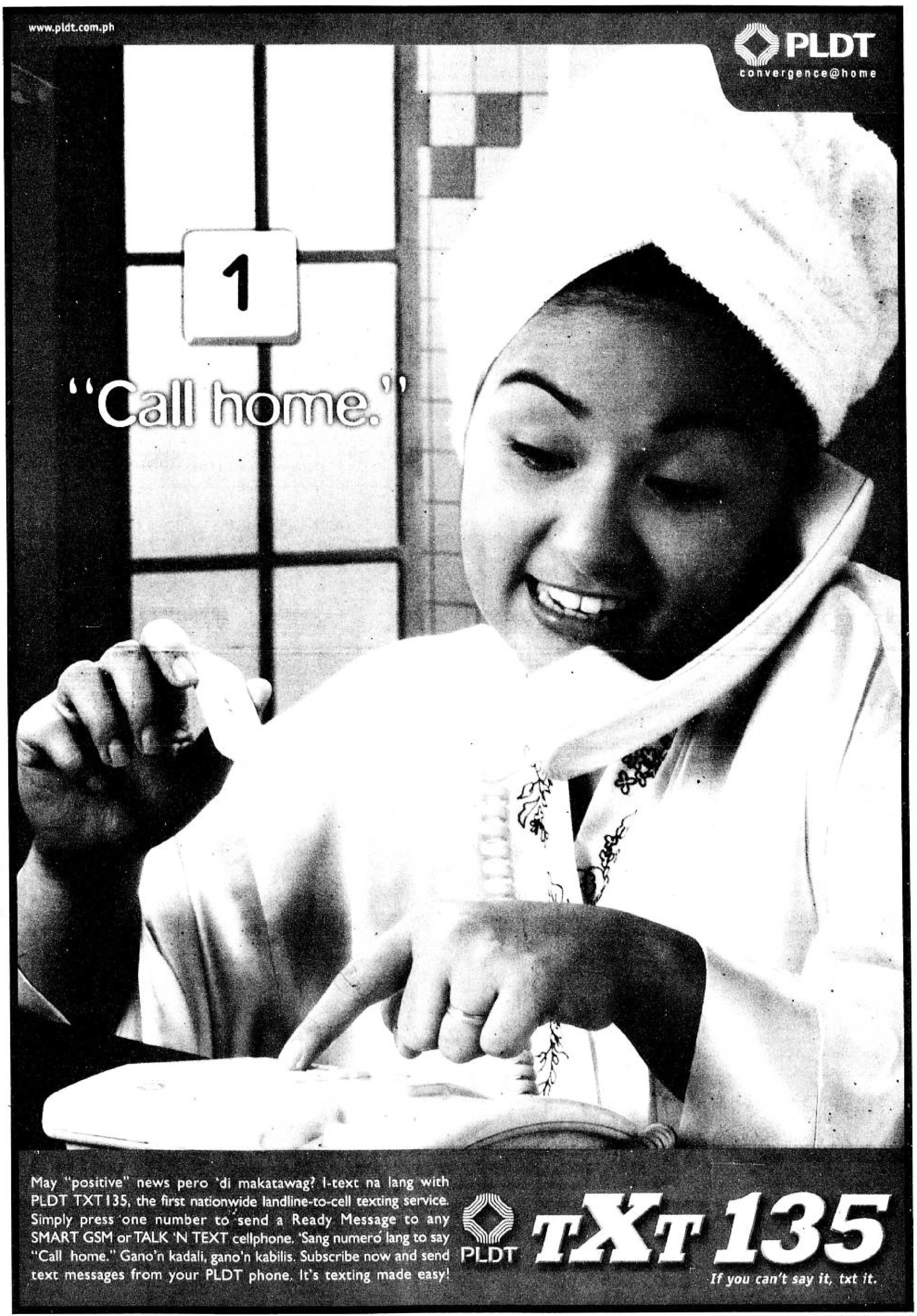

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   - Press 7 for "Please don't forget my bilin! Thanks."
   - Press 8 for "Sorry, I'll be late"
   - Press 9 for "Sorry, I can't make it"
   - Press 10 for "Don't worry, everything will be okay"
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4 rogue cops, 2 others arrested for robbery

By Agnes E. Donato and Jerome Aning

THREE active policemen and three dismissed uniformed personnel were arrested for robbery on Monday in Manila and Pasig City.

Five of the suspects were collared for the P2.7-million payroll heist in Ortigas Center, Pasig last week, said Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon Jr., Eastern Police District director.

Dizon identified two of the police suspects as PO3 Robert Provido, 35, and PO1 George Colegio, 33, both assigned to the National Capital Region Police Office.

Their alleged cohorts are Rogelio Naldo, 35, a dismissed policeman, Roland Gomez, a former Marine sergeant, 34; and Bayan Aplan, 35, an Army sergeant, 35. All suspects are residents of Taguig, Metro Manila, Dizon said.

But the robbery case remains open as police have yet to arrest three or more suspects involved in the robbery.

Investigator PO1 Roland Panis said employees of New York Bay Philippines, a door-to-door delivery company, lost their payroll to the suspects at about 11:30 a.m. on March 19.

Victims Deogracias Yala, 38, driver; Soriano Ronilito, 26; and Gaspar Saligumba, 25, withdrew the money from a Banco de Oro branch and were on their way back to their office on board a beige Hyundai Starex van (WRY-855) when a white Mitsubishi L-300 van blocked their path.

Eight men armed with Armalite rifles, .45 caliber pistols and a hand grenade, got off the L-300 and smashed the front passenger window of the victims' van.

The suspects ordered the victims to run away, then they allegedly helped themselves to the bags containing P2 million and $15,000.

Insp. Rodante Arcigal, follow-up division chief, said an informer told police that he had seen the suspects changing the license plates of the L-300 van in Taguig.

Police then went to the suspects' house in Taguig and arrested the five men. Police seized from the suspects the getaway vehicle, a .9mm pistol and two magazines.

The vehicle bore the license plate UTR-335. Police said they were still verifying the identity of the van's owner.

In Manila, an absentee policeman was also arrested Monday night after a businessman tagged him as the one who held him up in Quiapo a few days ago.

The Western Police District identified the suspect as PO3 Reynaldo Palma, of Padilla Street, San Miguel, Manila.

Palma was assigned to the Regional Service Support Group of the National Capital Region Police Office in Camp Ricardo Papa, Taguig.

Palma has reportedly been on AWOL for days.

Complainant Bernardo Abragante, 29, of Asuncion Street, Binondo, said Palma stopped him at gunpoint in Quiapo on March 24.

Abragante told police that the suspect frisked him and took his P1,800-bracelet as "evidence."

Abragante then lodged a complaint to the local barangay chair, Ateng Alonzo.

When Alonzo spotted Palma walking near the Quiapo Church about 10:30 p.m. Monday, he sought the assistance of Chief Insp. Ferdinand Quirante, precinct commander of the Plaza Miranda station.

When Abragante positively identified the suspect, the lawmen promptly arrested Palma and put him behind bars.

Authorities also stripped Palma of his 9-mm caliber firearm and police badge.

TOURISM Secretary Richard J. Gordon is presented a manifesto by the country's top 25 travel and tourism organizations at a dinner last week at Manila Hotel. The group declared in its manifesto its belief in Gordon's "brand of leadership" to stir the industry to "achieve outstanding growth rates."

THE PHILIPPINE TOURISM INDUSTRY
WELCOMES

4 flyovers to rise on C-5

FLYOVERS will soon rise on four busy intersections on C-5 road in Metro Manila.

The interchanges will be built on Boni Serrano and Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, Ortigas Avenue in Pasig City, Lanuza Street and J. Vargas Avenue in Pasig City, and Kalayaan Avenue in Makati City.

The flyovers are meant to relieve traffic on major chokepoints of the busy thoroughfare, according to Public Works and Highways Secretary Simeon Datumanong.

He also appealed to motorists and commuters to bear with the inconvenience the roadwork will temporarily cause. He assured that all efforts would be made to mitigate the heavy traffic.

Construction of the P656-million interchange on C-5 and Ortigas Avenue will start August 2001 and end two years later.

Partly funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the project involves construction of a third level flyover on C-5 across Ortigas Avenue, a 232-meter left-turning flyover from Cainta toward south of C-5 and a 499-meter second level west-bound flyover from Ortigas Avenue to C-5.

To the north, the DPWH will build a flyover and a 200-meter four-lane, two-way tunnel that will link Boni Serrano Avenue with Katipunan Avenue.

The P392-million JBIC-assisted project will start in October 2001 and end in September 2003.

In the Pasig City section of C-5, the interchange will be built on the intersection of Lanuza Street and J.V. Vargas Avenue.

About 630 meters of road will be constructed at the cost of P398 million. The project will begin March next year and will be completed in February 2004.

The fourth flyover will be built at the C-5 Kalayaan Avenue intersection in Makati City. Set to begin in April 2002, the P305-million Japanese-funded project will involve 790 meters of roadwork over a two-year period.

Quiapo nightspots raided; 54 nabbed

MANILA police have rounded up 54 people in a raid on two nightspots along Quezon Blvd., Quiapo, Manila.

Chief Inspector Cecilio Reyes led a joint team from the Western Police District and Manila City Hall in raiding Wild Flower Disco Theater and Phenomenal Disco Restaurant at about 11 p.m. Friday night.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza ordered a crackdown on lewd and indecent shows in the city following complaints from residents.

Romeo Lorenzo, chief inspector of Manila City Hall's Bureau of Permits, said 18 suspected prostitutes from Wild Flower Disco theater and 23 from Phenomenal Disco were arrested for holding indecent shows, a violation of Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code.

Lorenzo said 12 more suspects were also nabbed for working without Mayor's Permits.

Lito Bulaclac, believed to be a pimp, was also arrested for posing as a police officer with a fake badge and ID, Lorenzo said.

Bulaclac would be charged with interfering in police function and for usurpation of authority.

Atienza promised to continue the campaign against lewd shows to protect the kids, which he said, are the ones primarily affected.

Earlier, Atienza also ordered the raid and permanent closure of Discovery KTV on Magsaysay Boulevard, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Police arrested 62 suspected prostitutes in the raid last year.

Manila Bay not a dumpsite–Tañada

By Agnes E. Donato

SOME 20 fishers and environmentalists yesterday staged a picket in front of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to protest alleged dumping of Metro Manila garbage in the Manila Bay.

Clad in black trash bags, members of the Katipunan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Manila Bay (Kalmada) dumped garbage in front of the MMDA office in Makati City to dramatize their protest.

In a statement, Kalmada chair Arnel Viray said some 300,000 fishers are dependent on the resources of the Manila Bay for the livelihood of their families.

"If the government wants to turn Manila Bay into a Payatas, it might as well say that it doesn't care anymore about the lives and livelihood of the municipal livelihood," Viray claimed.

In a separate statement Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada said he had received reports that truckloads of garbage have been dumped into the Bay since November 2000. The garbage, he feared, could be part of the load originally bound for Semirara Island in Antique.

"I urge the Macapagal administration and all concerned agencies to immediately investigate these reports of illegal waste dumping into Manila Bay waters," said Tañada, who is running for senator under the People's Power Coalition. "This waste dumping poses new and greater risks to the health, livelihood and environment of some 300,000 fishers and their families who depend on the bay for sustenance.

"Moreover, the increased pollution in the bay waters threatens the marine biomass of the bay, which is already in critical condition."

Kalmada also expressed support for the implementation of Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

"We feel that the long-term solution to the garbage problem lies in proper waste management," Viray said. "The small fisherfolk of Manila Bay should not be made to carry the burden of the garbage problem of Metro Manila."

OCEAN DEEP

A fisherman onboard his outrigger seems to be contemplating the mysteries of the deep while a thriving Malabon seaport in the background bustles with activity.

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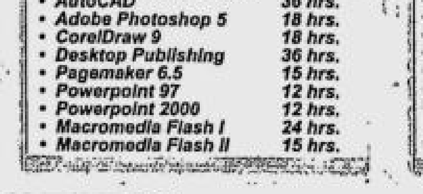

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DPWH hits it off with squatters, but misses with Manila residents

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways has suddenly become squatter-friendly.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong has ordered all concerned DPWH personnel to handle the issue of squatters or landless urban poor dwellers with "extreme caution" in compliance with the instructions of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a Jan. 31, 2001 memorandum, Ms Macapagal directed the DPWH to determine whether or not all pending and incomplete projects of the agency comply with the requirements of the Urban Development and Housing Act, which requires issuance of notice prior to any demolition.

Datumanong also repeated an earlier order to stop the issuance of demolition notices and the conduct of demolition activities in the squatter colonies at the sites of infrastructure projects until further notice.

"If the DPWH could help in saving trees, there is no reason why we couldn't think of ways to save people," Datumanong said in a memorandum to Patrick Gatan, DPWH action officer on relocation of squatter families.

"Just like the plight of mahogany trees along Quezon Avenue, we need to link with other concerned sectors to come up with a workable solution to this problem," he added.

Datumanong also directed Gatan to coordinate with the concerned DPWH Project Management Office and regional and district Offices, the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), local government units, the National Housing Authority (NHA), Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, and other agencies in the implementation of his instructions.

Gatan said that the affected areas include C-5, R-10, Pasig River Rehabilitation Program, National Government Center, and various Metro Manila flood control projects.

But he denied allegations by an urban poor group that the DPWH had a hand in the recent fires that leveled the squatters' shanties in Laperal Compound in Guadalupe Viejo and Pook Ricarte inside the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

Lope Adriano, project manager of the DPWH Urban Roads Project Office, clarified that the fire-damaged areas are not in any way affected by the URPO projects.

"There is no ongoing C-5 widening project in the affected areas," Adriano said.

In Tondo, Manila, the DPWH has not finished construction of the Dagupan Extension Road, which began 25 years ago. *Gerald Lacuarta, Alcuin Papa*

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hands over the symbolic check for P500,000 and a trophy to Aguilar. With them are the mayor's wife Mel Aguilar, Vice Mayor Louie Bustamante, Defense Undersecretary Eduardo Batenga, Interior Secretary Joey Lina and City Councilor Mark Anthony Santos.

LP is best drug-buster

THE LAS Piñas City government has won the award for being the best performing local government unit in the fight against illegal drugs.

Las Piñas was picked from among the country's 96 cities, 78 provinces and 1,513 municipalities.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Interior Secretary Joey Lina handed to Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar and Vice Mayor Louie Bustamante the plaque of recognition and a check for P500,000 recently in Malacañang Palace.

"The people of Las Piñas," Aguilar said, "have proven that we are dead serious in keeping our community clean and peaceful."

Other awards that Las Piñas has received include: the NCR's Cleanest and Greenest City Hall of Fame award, Global 500 Roll of Honor for Environmental Achievement Award, Most Peaceful City Award and Sentrong Sigla Award.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, March 28, 2001
4th Week of Lent

1st Reading: Is 49:8-15
Gospel: Jn 5:17-30

Jesus said to the Jews, "My *Father* goes on working and so do I." And the Jews tried all the harder to kill him, for Jesus not only broke the *sabbath* observance, but also made himself equal with God, calling him his own *Father*.

Jesus said to them, "Truly, I assure you, the Son cannot do anything by himself, but only what he sees the *Father* do. And whatever he does, the Son also does. The *Father* loves the Son and shows him everything he does; and he will show him even greater things than these, so that you will be amazed.

As the *Father* raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives life to whom he wills. In the same way the *Father* judges no one, for he has entrusted all judgment to the Son, and he wants all to honor the Son as they honor the *Father*. Whoever ignores the Son, ignores as well the *Father* who sent him.

Truly, I say to you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; and there is no judgment for him because he has passed from death to life. Truly, the hour is coming and has indeed come, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and, on hearing it, will live. For the *Father* has life in himself and he has given to the Son also to have life in himself. And he has empowered him as well to carry out Judgment, for he is a son of man.

Do not be surprised at this: the hour is coming when all those lying in tombs will hear my voice and come out; those who have done good shall rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

I can do nothing of myself, and I need to hear Another One to judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will, but the will of him who sent me."

Commentary

If humans partake of the creative and liberating work of God in the world, Jesus who is more than simply human shares more closely in God's designs for the same. One who has a vision has a mission. Such statement is very true. Since Jesus is so united with the Godhead that his intent is to do everything in accord with that Godhead, nothing can block him in accomplishing his mission. Is Jesus' vision also ours, so that his mission becomes also ours? After all, what have we been baptized for?

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No squabble in PPC–Carlos

VALENZUELA City Mayor Bobbit Carlos yesterday said there is no squabble within the Lakas Party, particularly the People Power Coalition (PPC).

Carlos also denied reports of any gap between him and Rep. Magi Gunigundo who kept on insisting that he is the duly designated party head.

The Valenzuela Public Information Office said it obtained a copy of a certification from the national executive committee of the PPC which designated Carlos as its city chair.

An official communication signed by Alberto Romulo, PPC chair of the joint coordinating secretariat, and Jose Ma. Rufino, executive director, said that the operation of the party such as nomination and acceptance for the position of congressman of the 1st cistrict, mayor, vice mayor and councilors were under the control of Carlos.

"As long as I have the official designation as the titular head of the party, it does not bother me," Carlos said.

There was no clear information if Magtanggol C. Gunigundo Sr. would be accepted by Carlos as official candidate for congressman in the first district.

Gunigundo was a former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) and the father of incumbent Rep. Gunigundo, the Lakas-NUCD chair for the 2nd district. The old Gunigundo backed out of the mayoral race and instead filed his candidacy for congressman in the city's first district.

His entry in the congressional race will make it a father and son team in the city's two districts.

Carlos is now the sole mayoral candidate of the ruling PPC.

Carlos, who is gunning for a third and final term, has not lost an election since winning as the city's top councilor in 1987.

It was also confirmed that Carlos had pushed former Valenzuela Mayor Santiago de Guzman to run for congressman of the 2nd District against the young Gunigundo and former Rep. Antonio Serapio.

City administrator Carmelito Lozada said Carlos is not fond of saying he belongs to the Lakas party despite the fact that before Gunigundo became a congressman, Carlos was already recognized as party titular head of Valenzuela City.

Lozada was reacting to recent reports quoting Gunigundo as saying that Lakas did not recognize Carlos as official candidate.

"Magi's allegation is baseless because we have a document signed by Vice President Teofisto Guingona to show that Carlos is the party's official candidate for city mayor."

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

4 people's groups bring Daboy, Bistek together

FOUR big people's organizations in Quezon City have succeeded in convincing the camps of mayoral candidate Rudy "Daboy" Fernandez and vice mayoral aspirant Herbert "Bistek" Bautista to join forces.

The alliance was formally announced yesterday in a joint news conference at the Quezon City Sports Club organized by the Reform QC Movement; the Patriotic Lawyers for Reform Integrity, Democracy, Ecology and Leadership (Plaridel); Kabataan Para sa Demokratikong Reporma (Kadre); and Integrated Bus Inspectors/Inspectresses New Intelligence Services Transport Organization.

Fernandez, who is the official candidate of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), said: "The alliance with Herbert is a positive development in our quest to give Quezon City a more responsive government."

He cited Bautista's considerable experience in governance as a former vice mayor.

Fernandez said he prepared himself for the job of Quezon City mayor long before he launched his candidacy.

"This preparation included studying the political, social and economic conditions of Quezon City, consultations with various sectoral groups, and holding constant dialogues with the barangay people," he said. "I also enrolled at the School of Government at the Ateneo University and immersed myself in the further study of management and government affairs."

Fernandez dared his opponents to talk about real issues and meaningful programs in their campaign, instead of focusing on his being a movie actor.

"Being a movie star is an honorable profession and I am not ashamed of it," he said in Filipino.

Lawyer Roland Sibal, chair of Plaridel, said the four groups had been working on the two camps for almost two months since they believe that Fernandez and Bautista can lead Quezon City to greater heights of development.

"We are convinced that this tandem is the answer to our search for a new kind of enlightened leadership," Sibal said.

His statement was supported by Fiscal Leopoldo Tomas of Reform QC Movement, Brix Tolentino of Kadre and Diosdado Garcia of the transport sector.

Tiangco plays godfather to 2,000 pairs

NAVOTAS Mayor Toby Tiangco since Oct. 7, 2000 has played godfather to about 2,000 couples who tied the knot as part of his mass wedding project.

Tiangco noted that the couples include teeners and middle-aged pairs who had been living together without the benefit of marriage.

Tiangco, the youngest mayor in Metro Manila, said the project aims to promote family as the basic foundation of the society.

"We have to preserve the union of two individuals to prevent broken marriages," he said.

He said hundreds more of unmarried couples would be exchanging marriage vows in the next few days as part of his continuing mass wedding program.

The date of the next mass wedding will be announced later.

As a wedding sponsor, Tiangco advised the couples to practice family planning and responsible parenthood.

"It is very important that we plan our family to give our children a better future," he said.

He also cautioned teeners against indulging in sex without the benefit of marriage.

Quit Namfrel, Binay tells Joecon and Luz

LAWYER Jejomar C. Binay, a mayoral candidate in Makati, yesterday urged the resignation of Jose Concepcion and other officers of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) who are campaigning for local opposition candidates in the city.

Binay said the open display of partisanship by Namfrel's leaders casts doubts on the organization's ability to undertake an impartial quick count in Makati.

Binay also sought the resignation of Guillermo Luz, Namfrel's executive director and spokesman of the Makati Business Club (MBC). Lakas candidates in Makati have claimed that the MBC is bankrolling their campaign.

Binay, official candidate of the PDP-Laban, said they have received reliable reports that Concepcion, Luz and other Namfrel officials who come mostly from Makati's exclusive villages have been attending the meetings of the local Lakas candidates or are active in the Lakas campaign.

In a letter to Concepcion and other Namfrel officials, Binay said their resignation would "remove whatever doubts exist as to your organization's ability to render a fair and impartial count here in Makati."

Binay cited the Namfrel chair's involvement in the Makati opposition and his support for Binay's opponents in previous elections.

"I would hope that (your support for the opposition) is just an empty boast on the part of the unwinnable Lakas candidates in Makati, but it is not a secret here in our city that you and I don't see eye to eye on many local issues," Binay said.

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REYNALDO MALONZO

'I want world-class management for Caloocan'

By Nini Valera

IF his first two terms as mayor of Caloocan City, which is geographically divided into Poblacion in the south and Bukid in the north, were a movie, its title would be "Against All Odds." Or "Last Man Standing."

Mayor Reynaldo "Rey" Malonzo is still walking tall in Caloocan despite his long-running and bitter rivalry with the Asistios—an old name in Caloocan politics, regardless of the 1997 recall election after he won as mayor in 1995, and despite his estrangement from former President Estrada that resulted in his 20-day suspension from office last year.

Malonzo is unafraid of his last hurdle in local politics, which is to win in his last bid for reelection. He also reveals plans that he is eyeing a senatorial slot in the 2004 elections.

If he were not a former movie star, it would be easy to accept and respect Malonzo, 48, as incumbent Caloocan mayor.

"*Hindi kasi ako Inglesero* (I am not a natural English speaker), like most public school graduates, who even if they were intelligent had no confidence in themselves," he says. "I only started to gain this confidence when I joined the movies (in the '70s) and even became a film producer."

Malonzo has a degree in Political Science that he obtained on a scholarship at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila where he was also student council president. He was a Kabataang Makabayan stalwart, a political detainee during the Marcos years, a rabid street parliamentarian during the '80s and in the recent Edsa II, a staunch oppositionist of Estrada, a yoga practitioner who believes that Christ was also the embodiment of Buddha and Mohammed, and a man who would follow his destiny and not blow it.

Like Estrada, Malonzo might just make it to the presidency, even if he claims that he still has other plans before he could even think of the ultimate.

"Who would ever think I'd make it this far," he says. "It's destiny. Like Erap...he was destined to become president of the Philippines only he wasted that destiny and it changed."

For Malonzo, nine straight years as Caloocan mayor is too short "but it is too long for another...and too bad for the people if it were somebody else and not myself in City Hall, and too bad and sad for the people."

He considers his final term—that's if he wins again—to be his real beginning. The first two years of his first term (1995 to 1997) were a turbulent period for Malonzo, who says that until he won the recall election in 1997, he felt uneasy being in City Hall.

"It's no joke to be getting telephoned threats of a bomb planted in my office if I still wouldn't step down when my victory was questioned (by my opponents and their camp)," he says. "Then Erap was elected President in 1998, and you know the rest."

Self-reliance

Which is why he stands stolidly on his campaign theme of self-reliance for Caloocan and expresses his vision of himself as "The Champion," a line, he says, that is also reflective of how he envisions the citizens of Caloocan could be "if they helped themselves and became self-reliant," and how he hopes to transform Caloocan into a world-class city.

MALONZO

"We really want to implement world-class management for our city," he says. "Some may think this a pretty high aim. But there's really nothing wrong to be this ambitious. If we aimed high but missed our goals, our purpose would still define the quality (of our thinking)."

The former action star, whose last movie was the box-office hit "Huling Lalaki Ng Balwarte" in the '70s, directed by Carlo J. Caparas, may not have won awards in his previous show biz job. But in his second career as elected public servant, Malonzo claims to have plucked some plums for Caloocan.

In 1999, the Caloocan police were named the country's best police station. His computerization of real estate tax collection, Malonzo claims, had also been the benchmark for similar efforts by the cities of Olongapo, Tarlac, Marikina, "and even Vilma Santos (awards-laden actress, now mayor of Lipa, and up for reelection) is following our computerization system."

Personalized

He describes his governing style as personalized and himself as mayor "to be pro-active rather than reactionary."

So how would he solve the plague of garbage, the curse of drugs, the evils of crime, and the acceptance of corruption as a political way of life not only in Caloocan but also in world-class capitals he wants his city to become?

Without missing a beat, Malonzo says educating the public on waste segregation and instilling discipline in their ways of garbage disposal and their acceptance of composting as an option to dumping would help reduce the city's stash of trash.

From the national level, he asks for the revision of the Clean Air Act so that it would reconsider the use of incinerators in garbage disposal, and for the proper implementation of the Solid Waste Management Act, which provides for the segregation of garbage starting from the home.

He leaves solutions to the perennial crime and drug dilemma to the city police, whose efforts he says he supports by providing them with mobile patrol cars and proper radio equipment from his local budget, and information that leads to major busts.

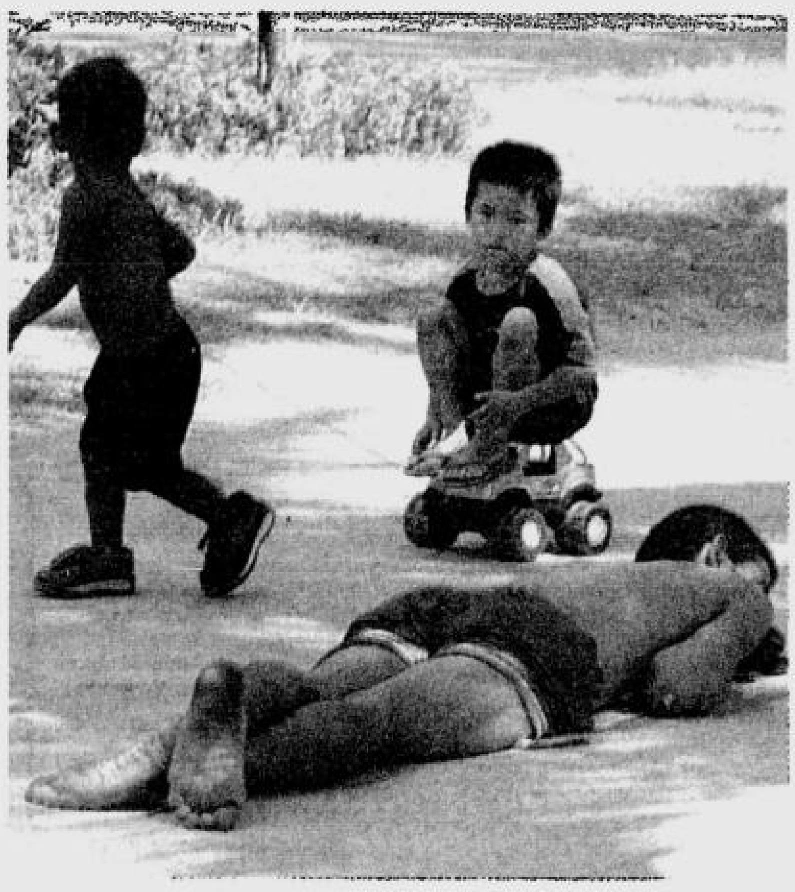
By example

Slowly but surely, Malonzo says he would also eradicate corruption in City Hall with computerization. He claims to have succeeded in this already in the case of real estate tax collection.

But more important than his much- vaunted computerization of City Hall, he vows to eliminate corrupt practices through his own example of not succumbing to friendships and patronage — hallmarks, he says, of traditional Caloocan politics.

By the sheer force of his now whole personality, Malonzo, who had reinvented himself from star of the movies to mayor of the city, might just be able to make it—all the way to the Senate. Or to wherever his destiny would lead him.

> 'Who would ever think I'd make it this far," he says. "It's destiny. Like Erap...he was destined to become president of the Philippines only he wasted that destiny and it changed'


HOT BED
Politicians who are running in the May 14 elections and who make promises should take notice of Metro Manila's multitude of homeless people, including this young man whose bed is the steaming ground and whose pillow is a rolled up shirt. The two little boys playing beside him may end up like him, too. DENNIS SABANGAN

Sandoval challenges young Oreta to debate, 'anytime, anywhere'

By Christian V. Esguerra

HERE'S one to spice up Malabon-Navotas politics: A Spice Boy is challenging a fiery woman contender to a debate.

Re-electionist Rep. Federico Sandoval yesterday dared his opponent Rissa Oreta to a debate "anytime, anywhere," to give voters of the Malabon-Navotas congressional district a ringside view of their political programs.

"I challenge Rissa Oreta to a debate anytime, anywhere," said Sandoval, a member of the Lower House's "Spice Boys," a group of young, non-traditional lawmakers.

"The people should know what (Oreta) really intends to do to uplift the lives of our constituents."

Oreta, the eldest daughter of pro-Estrada Senator Tessie Aquino-Oreta, yesterday accepted Sandoval's challenge.

"Challenge is accepted," Oreta said through her staff member Peter Cayco. "Just name the place and time. And make sure it's a legitimate debate."

The planned debate is expected to enliven the often lethargic and personality-based politics in Malabon and Navotas.

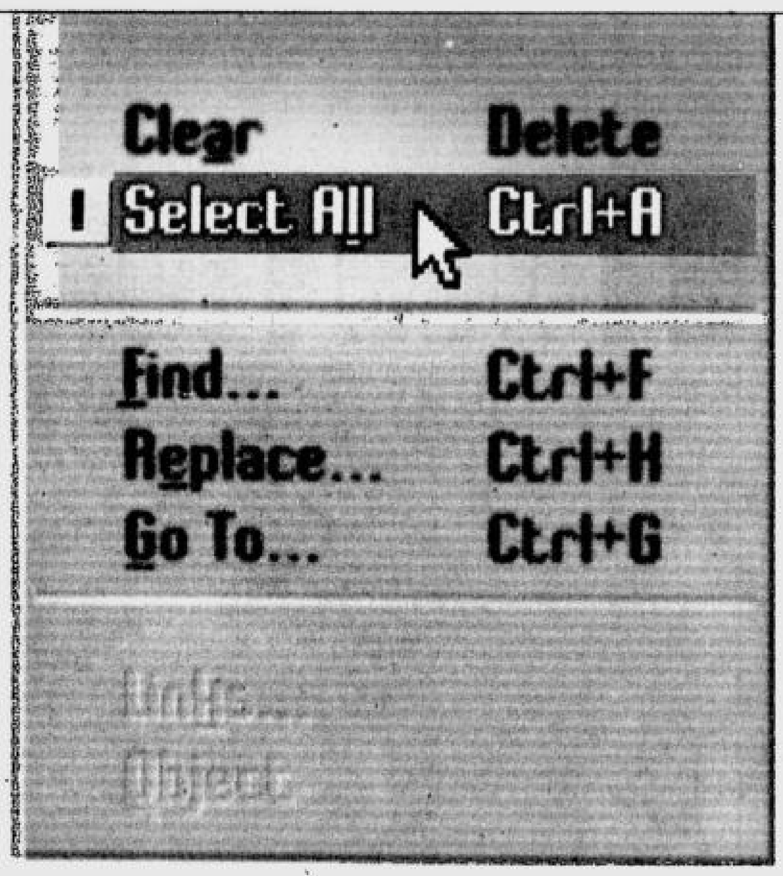
"We have to graduate from personality-oriented politics; we should deal with issues," Sandoval said.

He said voters need to know his and Oreta's "platform and their stand on crucial issues" such as their district's long-running problems on floods, housing, and education.

So far, the debate has taken on a predictable course: Sandoval would focus on what he has done and Oreta on what she intends to do.

Sandoval said the debate could be organized by the Church and aired over television and radio.

Oreta on her part, prefers a live debate on a plaza.



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POLICE poster has Mark Chua's childhood photos and numbers that witnesses can call.

Promo girl, 23, robbed, raped

A 23-YEAR-OLD promo girl was allegedly robbed and raped by an alleged drug dependent who broke into her apartment in San Andres Bukid, Manila before dawn Monday.

The suspect, Joseph Anahan, 26, married and a resident of Road 5, Fabie Estate, Sta. Ana, was arrested by members of the anti-crime unit of the Western Police District Station 6 headed by Insp. Leonardo Borromeo.

The victim, a promo girl for a brand of beauty products, said she was alone when Anahan broke into her room in an apartment on Dagonoy Street in San Andres around 4 a.m. Monday.

She positively identified the suspect, who was arrested two hours later.

She said she was asleep when she heard noise inside her room. When she opened her eyes, she saw Anahan rummaging through her things, she said.

She said that before she could even scream, Anahan cupped his hands over her mouth and pointed a dagger at her throat.

She said Anahan undressed her and then ravished her. The suspect escaped, taking P1,740 from her bag, she said.

She said she used to stay with other boarders but they left one by one when the apartment owner announced he would tear down the apartment to erect a new building.

Christian V. Esguerra

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INQUIRER

Pa suspects . . .

(From page A21)

up on the kidnap-for-ransom angle.

Investigation showed Mark, a 19-year-old sophomore mechanical engineering student at UST, was still alive when he was thrown into the Pasig River. Mark's hands and feet were tied and his face was wrapped in cloth and packing tape.

Mark's face had been covered with cloth before it was wrapped with tape to allow the murky waters of the Pasig River seep into Mark's lungs, thus prolonging his agony, Chua said.

"This is a clear case of revenge," Chua quoted investigators as saying. "A kidnapper's priority is ransom, not the victim's death."

The autopsy report showed there was sludge in Mark's lungs, indicating he was alive when he was thrown into the river.

Mark's decomposing body was fished out of the Pasig River on March 18, three days after he was last seen alive and weeks after he blew the whistle on the alleged irregularities at the UST-ROTC where he was a ranking officer.

His expos, resulted in the relief of Maj. Demy Tejares and his staff.

Chua theorized that his son's killers were not the same people who abducted him. He said he believes the suspects used a UST student to set up the abduction.

Mark, a member of the ROTC's intelligence network, was supposed to meet an "agent" when he disappeared on March 15.

Chua said his son could not have been kidnapped easily since he usually did not work alone or go with people he did not know.

Chua said Mark was very conscious of his security after he received death threats following his revelations of corruption.

Mark had been undergoing security training in Fort Bonifacio several weeks before the abduction, as advised by the new ROTC commandant, the father said.

"Someone close to Mark could have betrayed him," Chua said.

Amok guard slain

A DRUNKEN security guard who ran amuck in a Valenzuela eatery was killed in an alleged shootout with police on Sunday night.

Josue Carillo, 23, of Focus Security Agency and a resident of M. H. del Pilar in Malabon, died from four gunshot wounds on his way to the Valenzuela General Hospital, police said.

A drunken Carillo reportedly harassed eight customers of the 3-Point Corner Lugawan in Malinta at about 10 p.m. Sunday, said SPO4 Arthur Quinones of the Valenzuela police.

Carillo, who was in uniform, allegedly approached Teodoro Bautista and his group and accused them of not paying their bill, police said.

Then Carillo punched Bautista's companion Gherwin Maliwanag on the chest and poked his .38 revolver at Bautista, police said.

PO3 Ferdinand Buban and PO2 Miguel Isla of the Police Community Precinct in Malinta responded to Maliwanag's call for police help.

Carillo allegedly commandeered a passenger jeepney when he saw the policemen, who then boarded a tricycle and chased the security guard.

Police said Carillo fired a shot when the officers caught up with him in front of Sexy Bomb disco in Dalandanan.

Buban and Isla fired back, hitting Carillo four times in the body, police said.

Christian V. Esguerra

Policemen . . .

(From page A21)

Roxas said. They even presented their police ID cards, he said.

Roxas said the suspects asked him for his car registration papers. When he showed them the documents, the men said they had to take his vehicle to Camp Crame because it was a "hot car," according to Senido.

The two men told Roxas to drive to the police camp together with them. Roxas and his friend David Trinidad decided to go with the suspects, Senido said.

But when they reached Ilang-ilang Street, one of the unidentified men asked them where was the jueteng money they had collected. Roxas said the question confused him and his friend.

When they told the two men that they had nothing to do with the illegal numbers game, the two men pulled out handguns and announced the holdup, Roxas said.

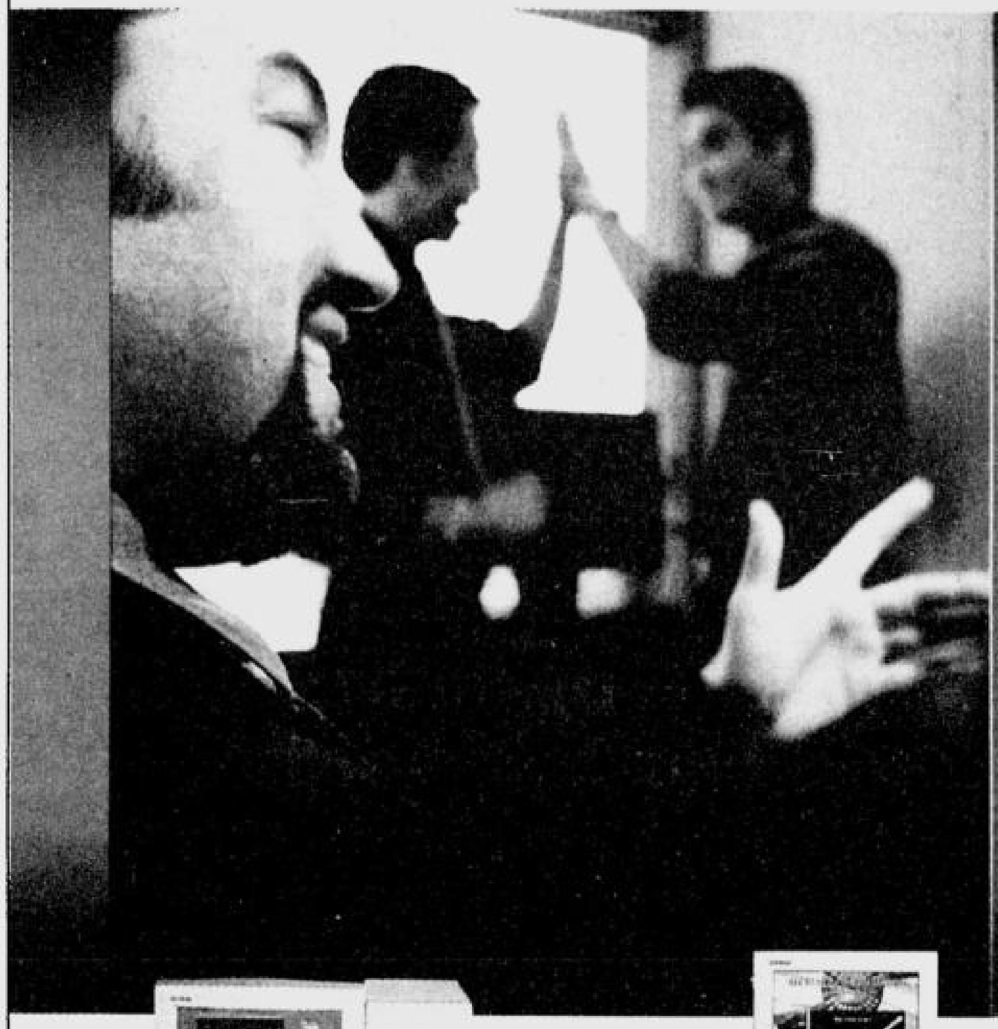
The robbers took all the valuables of Roxas and Trinidad, including Roxas' 20 gold coins, Senido said.

Roxas said one of the suspects then told Trinidad to get out of the car. Trinidad resisted at first and said he was not going anywhere without Roxas. But the suspects forced him out of the car and left him on the road, Senido added.

Roxas said the suspects ordered him to drive on, and alighted only when they had reached Aurora Boulevard.

He said the two suspects then boarded a parked private jeep, where three other men were apparently waiting for them.

Roxas said he first looked for Trinidad before reporting the robbery to the Kamuning police station.



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1	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
3	DTS	WEDDING PLANNER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE GIFT
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
11	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DRACULA 2000
7	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
11	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	DTS	THEY NEST
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
4	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
7	DTS	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	QUILLS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
12	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CLOSED
9	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	ULTRA SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	ULTRA SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
4	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
5	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
7	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	ULTRA SURROUND	QUILLS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
5	ULTRA SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED

SM PAMPANGA 7126015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	BAIT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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- 4 MALENA — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND — Art Film
- 5 CHOCOLAT — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 6 THE GIFT — In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
- 7 CROUCHING TIGER — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT
- 1 THEY NEST — In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
- 2 SAVE THE LAST DANCE — In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
- 3 THE GIFT — In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
- 4 MARCH 30, 31 GARY V. BY REQUEST 2 — Onstage

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- 3 WEDDING PLANNER — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
- 4 THEY NEST — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
- 5 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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2 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
3 (DTS)	BAIT
4 GOLD (DTS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
6 GOLD (SDDS)	TOTAL AIKIDO
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
8 [illegible]	BABAENG PUTIK
9 [illegible]	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10 [illegible]	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1	UHAW SA INIT
2	TOTAL AIKIDO
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

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1 (DOLBY)	TOTAL AIKIDO
2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	UHAW SA INIT

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2	UHAW SA INIT
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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1	RESERVE
2	BABAENG PUITK
3	UHAW SA INIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	TOTAL AIKIDO

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1	TOTAL AIKIDO
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	RESERVE
4	UHAW SA INIT
5	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
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7	ALWAYS A COPS
8	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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3	PERFECT STORM
4	THE REPLACEMENT

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2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

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2	UHAW SA INIT
3	THE GIFT

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1	TOTAL AIKIDO
A	UHAW SA INIT

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1	RESERVE
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City
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1 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	QUILLS
4	THE GIFT
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	BABAENG PUTIK
7 (DTS)	BAIT
8 (SDDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
9 (DOLBY)	TOTAL AIKIDO

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	UHAW SA INIT
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	BABAENG PUITK
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
5	UHAW SA INIT
6 (DOLBY)	TOTAL AIKIDO
7 (DTS)	DRACULA 2000
8	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	UHAW SA INIT
5 (SDDS)	TOTAL AIKIDO
6	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	RESERVE
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 (DTS)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	BABAENG PUTIK
5 (SDDS)	UHAW SA INIT
6 (DOLBY)	TOTAL AIKIDO
7 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST

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(Cubao) tel 911.7888

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Lords	UHAW SA INIT
Jennet	WILD SIDE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
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1	UHAW SA INIT
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	TOTAL AIKIDO
4	THEY NEST

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1	
3	BABAENG PUTIK

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1	BABAENG PUTIK
2	THEY NEST
3	UHAW SA INIT
4	TOTAL AIKIDO
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	PANABLA
4	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5	TOTAL AIKIDO
6	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Baclaran LRT Cinema
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1	BABAENG PUTIK
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

CINEMA 2000

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1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 (DTS)	THE BAIT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1	WEDDING PLANNER
2 (DTS)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 (DOLBY)	THE BAIT
4	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Lianas Cinema
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1 (SDDS)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	BABAENG PUTIK
4 (DTS)	TOTAL AIKIDO

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1 (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 (DTS)	THE BAIT
4	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

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1
2
3

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2
3

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1
2
3

Morales Cinema
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1	BAIT
2	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3	WAY OF THE GUN

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1
2
3
4

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1 (DTS)	BAIT
2 (DTS)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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1	PANABLA
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	TOO MUCH FLESH

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1	TOO MUCH FLESH
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	WOMAN ON TOP
4	MS. CONGENIALITY

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1	UHAW SA INIT
2	

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1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	BABAENG PUTIK
4	TOTAL AIKIDO

Jade Cinema
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1 (DOLBY EX)	PURPLE STORM
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	BAIT
4 (DTS EX)	THE GIFT

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THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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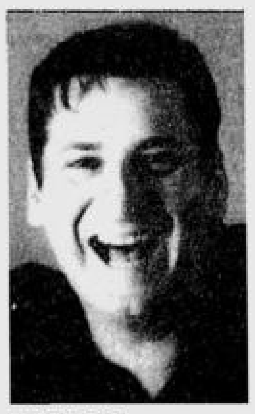

HADLEY

Launch party

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Ida Lupino is TCM's Star of the Month for April

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN April, TCM Turner Classic Movies pays tribute to **Ida Lupino** as its Star of the Month. Fourteen of her starrers will be screened every Friday on the movie channel, including "The Sea World" and "Deep Valley."

After giving standout performances in Warner Bros.' hard-hitting melodramas, Lupino later distinguished herself as one of the few women directors in Hollywood in the 1950s, coming up with movies like "Outrage" and "The Hitch-hiker."

The screening schedule (starting at 9 p.m. each night): April 6, "The Sea Wolf," "The Hard Way," "They Drive By Night," "Devotion."

April 13, "Deep Valley," "Pillow to Post," "High Sierra," "Man I Love."

April 20, "Escape Me Never," "Out of the Fog," "In Our Time," "While the City Sleeps."

April 27, "Outrage," "Hard, Fast and Beautiful."

Some capsule synopses: "Devotion" is a touching film loosely based on the literary Brontë sisters. Lupino does a superb job as **Emily**, the talented sister who wrote "Wuthering Heights." **Olivia de Havilland** and **Nancy Coleman** play **Charlotte** and **Ann Brontë**.

"Deep Valley" is an outstanding movie that showcases one of Lupino's best performances. She plays an uneducated young woman who leads an unhappy life on an isolated farm, until two men, an engineer and a convict, fall in love with her.

"High Sierra." In this classic gangster movie, **Humphrey Bogart** plays an ex-convict who is forced to take part in a bank robbery. He and a dance hall girl played by Lupino flee, but tragedy strikes.

"Man I Love." Lupino plays a singer in **Robert Alda**'s nightclub. She fights off his advances and falls for pianist **Bruce Bennett**. Some **Hammerstein** and **Gershwin** tunes are featured.

"Escape Me Never." A tragic tale of love and betrayal, with Lupino portraying a single mother whose infant son in being cared for by an impoverished composer (**Errol Flynn**). When **Eleanor Parker** accuses her fiancé of having an affair with Lupino, Flynn goes to Parker to clarify the situation, and falls in love with her.

Feedback

FROM **Anne R. Cometa** of Makati City: "Instead of discovering so many new stars, many of whom are too inexperienced in the acting department, movie producers should take a second look at some actors and actresses who, for one reason or another, have not been seen on the movie screen lately.

"Recently, I saw **Gardo Versoza** acting in a TV drama, and he impressed me with his confident and believable performance. Besides that, he also looked good. I can't understand why producers don't get him to play major roles in the movies. He should be given another chance . . ."

Two shows for Drew Carrey

STAR World features versatile comedian **Drew Carrey** in two of its shows, back to back: "The Drew Carrey Show" (Thursdays at 8 p.m.) and "Whose Line Is It anyway?" (Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.).

In "The Drew Carrey Show," he plays a single guy who tries to have some fun—and gets into trouble instead. In "Whose Line Is It Anyway?," he introduces promising comics who rely completely on their quick wit and improvisional skills to do unrehearsed skits, games or songs in front of a live audience.

New telenovela

CHANNEL 2 now airs the new romantic melodrama, "Camila," weekdays at 11:30 a.m., right after "Talk TV." Starring are "Marimar" hunk **Eduardo Capetillo** and his wife, **Bibi Gaytan**.

Gaytan plays an innocent country lass who has lived with her grandfather ever since her mother's death. When a dashing young lawyer (Capetillo) meets her, it's love at first sight—but is their love meant to last?

Successful comeback

ACTION star **Steven Seagal** hasn't been seen on the movie screen for years, but his comeback movie, "Exit Wounds," has just had a smash opening in the States, so Seagal's down-and-out days are over.

The film, an action thriller, was produced by **Joel Silver**, whose past hits include "The Matrix" and "Romeo Must Die." Seagal's co-star in his comeback movie is hiphop artist **DMX**, and they prove to be an explosive combination onscreen.

The Bee Gees, with big teeth and permanent tan, are back and they're cool

LONDON—Once mocked for their falsetto harmonies and pilloried for their disco ditties, The Bee Gees are back and a whole new generation has decided they are cool.

From Destiny's Child to Boyzone, today's pop stars are recording Bee Gees songs and their latest album in a 35-year career says it all in the title, "This Is Where I Came In."

The Bee Gees have sold 110 million albums and "Saturday Night Fever" was the best-selling soundtrack album of all time.

Only John Lennon and Paul McCartney have written more US No. 1 singles than the "Brothers in Arms," Maurice, Robin and Barry Gibb, but their music has been constantly mocked by spoof bands trilling "meaningless songs in very high voices."

"What baffled us was being put on a pedestal and then being knocked off," Barry Gibb confessed to BBC interviewer Michael Parkinson in a Saturday night reflection on their roller-coaster career.

The Bee Gees once famously walked out of a British chat show when presenter Clive Anderson started to tease them about their songs. Barry Gibb admitted to Parkinson: "People don't like your music all of a sudden and that makes you very defensive."

But in the fickle world of pop, the Bee Gees, with their big teeth and constantly topped up Florida tan, are above all survivors.

They have now worked with just about every big star from Barbra Streisand to Celine Dion, Diana Ross to Dionne Warwick.

Their only live concert this year was an intimate set for 300 invited guests at a BBC studio to promote the new album. The Times newspaper decided that "the disco inferno blazes again. The Bee Gees' credibility has again begun to match their record sales.

"It has been a slow climb back to cool for the band," the paper concluded.

The latest album took a year to make at a Florida studio. The brothers returned to their rock and ballad roots, recording many of the songs grouped round a single microphone.

Barry Gibb freely admits that the uncertainty about fame is always there: "I have a huge ego and a huge inferiority complex at the same time."

There is nothing more cyclical than pop fashion for each new teenage fan.

But still Barry Gibb was able to conclude with a hint of triumph in his voice: "Ricky Martin is still disco. People are dancing more than ever before. Nothing changes. That is where we came in."

Reuters

Ariel hits on VCD

BMG Records Pilipinas has just released the VCD-karaoke version of "Ariel Rivera Greatest Hits" album, a compilation of Ariel's most-loved songs.

The VCD-karaoke version of the "Greatest Hits" album showcases the same tracklist as the album and the minus one, which includes "Sa Aking Puso," "Photograph," "Minsan Lang Kitang Iibigin," "A Smile in Your Heart" and the phenomenal "Sana Kahit Minsan," plus two new tracks—the carrier single "Habang Buhay" and "Maaari Ba?"

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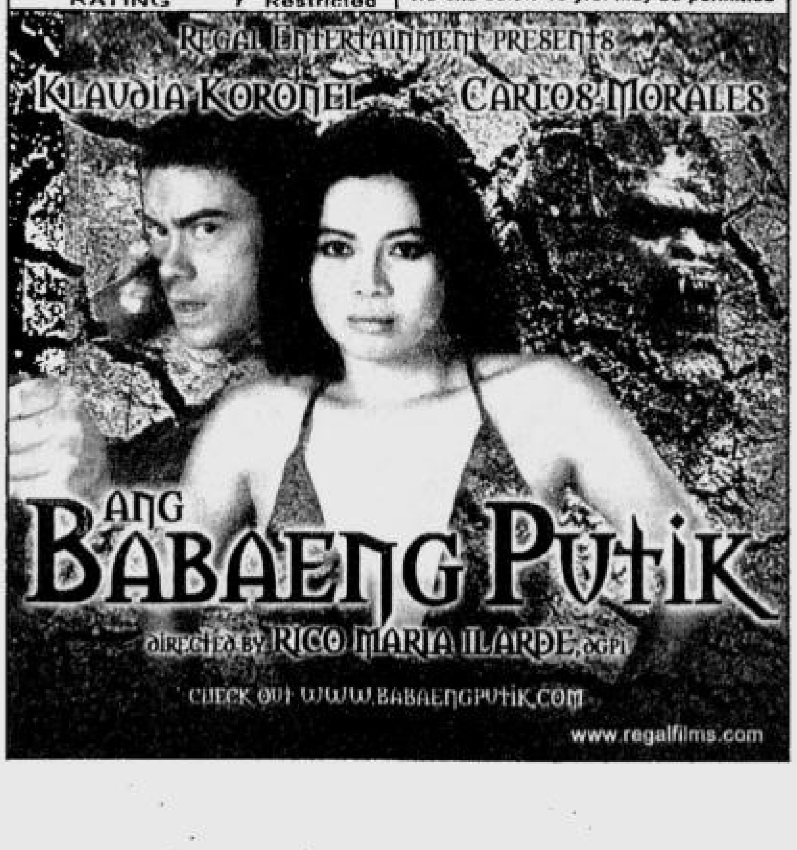
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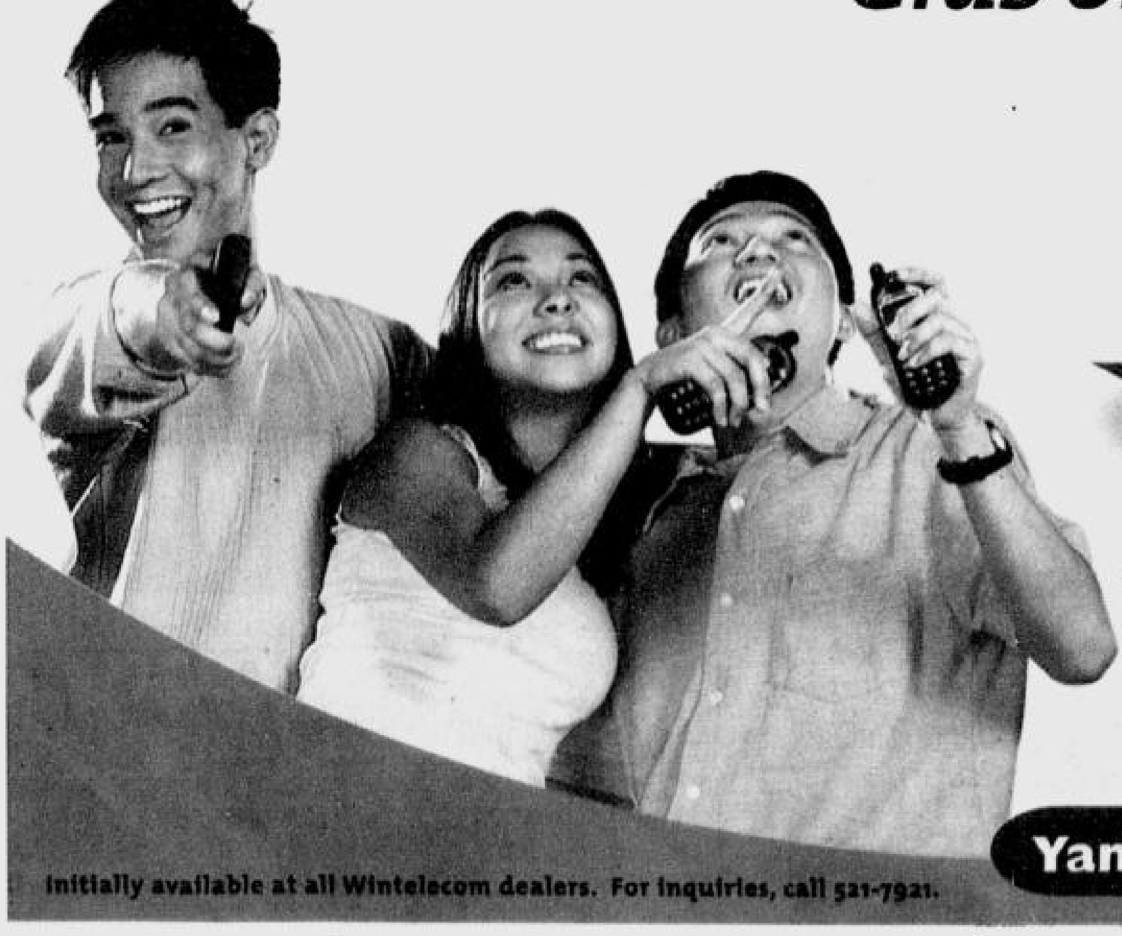

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Fuel lack perils operation of 3 power plants

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THREE large coal-fired power plants are in danger of shutting down due to delays in the approval of National Power Corp.'s coal supply contracts.

Coal traders yesterday said the 1,200-megawatt Sual plant and the Pagbilao and Masinloc plants, both with a capacity of 700 mw each, would run short of fuel within six weeks or as early as May.

Nine contracts estimated to be worth $173 million are currently waiting approval of Malacañang. These represent 4.98 million metric tons of coal calculated at an average price of $32 per metric ton.

Napocor's requirement to fuel its four coal-fired power plants for 2001 is estimated at 5.52 million metric tons.

The state-run firm has yet to secure Malacañang's final approval of five contracts awarded after biddings and negotiations between November last year and January 2001.

Malacañang is said to be transferring the review of large contracts from the Presidential Management Staff to the National Economic and Development Authority.

Traders said this has delayed the process by one month, especially for contracts that were pre-approved after a competitive tender.

Earlier, Napocor said it would recommend the awarding of three contracts worth P800 million for the Sual generator.

The contracts were hounded with controversy after the losing bidders complained that these were won through negotiations instead of competitive tenders.

However, Napocor president Jesus N. Alcordo cited an executive order, signed during the term of President Fidel Ramos, empowering Napocor officials to negotiate fuel supply contracts even without a competitive tender or after a competitive bidding has failed.

Alcordo said the order aimed to ensure the fuel supply stability of the government's coal power plants as well as those of the independent power producers.

The official also said the contracts had to be approved in view of rising coal prices, which currently average $38 per metric ton.

On the other hand, the traders warned that companies which won tenders could use the delays as a pretext to void the contracts and take advantage of the stronger market outside the country.

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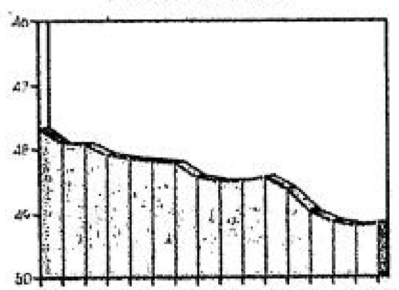

GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

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As of 5 p.m., March 27, 2001

¥122.50 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 122.50 as of 5 p.m., March 27, 2001

GOLD:$262.70/263.20
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STOCK MARKET

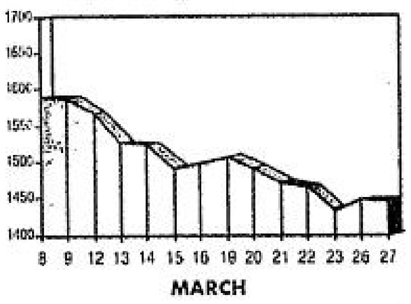
Shares dip 0.1%

SHARE prices dipped 0.1 percent yesterday due to continuing concerns over the strength of the US and Japanese economies and lack of good news locally, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 1.38 points to 1,446.99.

SHARES/ B6

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Group wants to bring in Rolls Royce, Bentley cars

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

AFTER misfiring on its introduction of the Proton sedan in the mid-1990s, a local group of Filipino and Malaysian investors is gearing up to sell Rolls Royce and Bentley models in the country.

In a letter to the Board of Investments, Auto Prominence Corp. financial adviser Ernesto V. Tan said his company was "looking forward to the registration of the Rolls Royce and Bentley models along with the Volkswagen Gol and Parati models in the country."

Volkswagen took over the Rolls Royce and Bentley models in 1998 when it beat its German rival BMW with its $795-million offer for the Vickers group's interest in the company known for its hand-made cars worth at least $250,000 each.

APC is formerly Proton Pilipinas Corp., owned by Filipino businessmen led by Peter Rodriguez and Diversified Resources of Malaysia, a participant in the Motor Vehicle Development Program.

APC took over Proton Pilipinas' MVDP registration after the latter ran into financial distress after amassing P486 million in debts. PPC was licensed to distribute the Proton, Volkswagen, Audi and Alfa Romeo models in the country. APC has taken over the Volkswagen and Audi lines only.

Tan, however, did not give any details on its plan for the Rolls Royce and Bentley models, which are part of the Volkswagen group. He only revealed that APC was interested in selling 1,050 units of Volkswagen Gol and 520 units of Volkswagen Parati over the next three years.

But some BOI officials have expressed serious doubts on APC's capability to sell so much Volkswagen vehicles considering that the company only sold 217 units of mainly Volkswagen Polo during the last three years.

Also, the government is understandably skeptical on APC's vow of shifting from semi-knocked down (SKD) to completely knocked down (CKD) assembly of the Gol and Parati models considering its predecessor's dubious track record. Proton Pilipinas has not moved to CKD assembly after unveiling its plant in Pangasinan three years ago.

Tan said that APC was discussing with Volkswagen AG the "possibility of consigning to APC the required jigs and tools for the assembly of the Parati and Gol models. Tan also noted that both Malacañang and the BOI have agreed to transfer the SKD import license of Proton Pilipinas to APC last year."

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PARIS-BASED TASK FORCE

RP still lacking in efforts vs money laundering

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

PARIS-BASED Financial Action Task Force will decide in June what action to take against the Philippines, Russia, Lebanon and Nauru for failing to improve cooperation with the multilateral initiative against money laundering, an official of the US Treasury Department said.

In a March 6 testimony before the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Joseph Myers, acting deputy assistant Treasury secretary, said that FATF members might list other non-cooperative jurisdictions in addition to the 15 cited earlier.

Last June, the FATF, an initiative of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, a multilateral group of the world's most industrialized countries, identified the Philippines and 14 other jurisdictions as non-cooperative countries and territories with respect to international efforts on anti-money laundering.

Myers said that the US Treasury Department would continue to work with the FATF to help countries to correct serious, systemic deficiencies in anti-money laundering regimes.

"And we will be prepared, as necessary, to implement countermeasures with respect to countries that make inadequate progress to address the concerns identified by the international community," he said.

In an interview yesterday, Bankers Association of the Philippines executive director Leonilo Coronel said that a possible countermeasure as simple as increased scrutiny and documentary requirements of Philippine banking transactions with foreign correspondent banks would bring about higher cost of doing business in the country.

"For example, if I remit money from my bank to the US but there is a three-day delay because of FATF action then that will carry a cost, a painful cost," Coronel said.

He also pointed out that if money transfers from the Philippines to overseas banks were not satisfactorily explained then the funds could even be frozen because some jurisdictions had authority to do so.

At this point, he said, the government really needed to pass legislation to allow a look into foreign currency deposits, which under local law was provided with absolute secrecy. Only peso-denominated deposits can be opened if a court order is issued.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines has agreed to require foreign nationals to sign a waiver to allow their government to look into their foreign currency deposits.

Coronel, however, said he did not know how effective this would be considering that the BAP-member bank may in the end still have the prerogative to accept the FCDU deposit although the foreign national refused to sign the waiver.

Coronel said that the BAP and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas hoped to complete a draft bill on anti-money laundering and have the new administration certify it as urgent by the time the new Congress resumes session in June. •

The BSP has also proposed an amendment to the New Central Bank Act to allow the Monetary Board to examine all bank deposits over P50 million or its foreign currency equivalent in relation to suspicions of racketeering, money laundering and other illegal activities.

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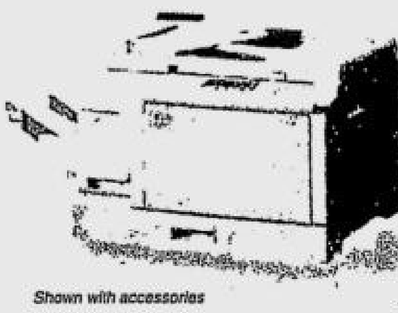

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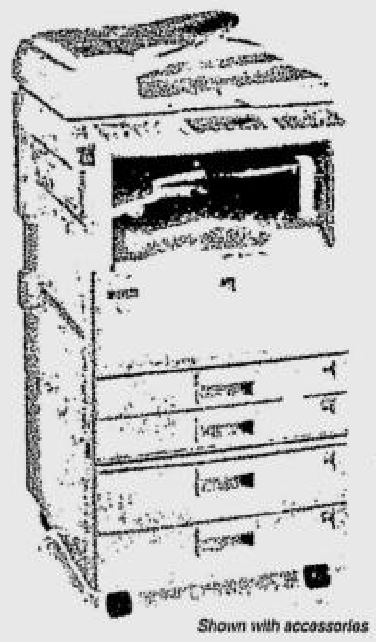

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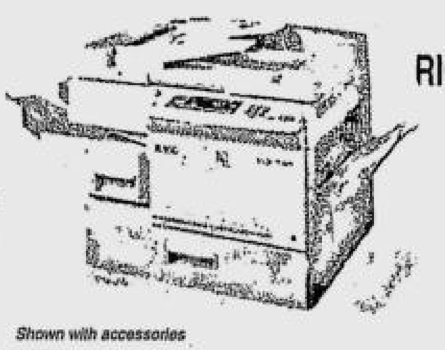

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ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,850,000	2,100,000*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	800,000
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	115,000	
CELEBRITY SPORTS	210,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	450,000	500,000*/700,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	280,000	290,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF		550,000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	400,000	405,000/525,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,200,000	
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	825,000/900,000*	850,000
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000**	300,000/425,000*
PUERTO AZUL	130,000	150,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	230,000	250,000
RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	240,000	260,000/420,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB/GOLF*		495,000/1,250,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	870,000	890,000
VALLEY GOLF	330,000	350,000
VALLE VERDE	175,000	195,000
WACK WACK	8,500,000	

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Tedious start-up process hurts small, medium firms

LOCAL and foreign investors are exasperated over stupid laws and too many permits and clearances required by different government agencies before one can start any business project.

The difficulty of getting so many permits and clearances on a piecemeal basis has made the cost of starting a business in the country high.

The tedious process that starts with a company's registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to getting an environment clearance certificate takes several months and, at times, even years.

The complaint was aired in a recent dialogue between business leaders, key officials of the Department of Environment end Natural Resources and the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA). The program was organized by the Philippine Exporters Confederation (Philexport) under its Usaid-funded project.

Hard hit are small and medium enterprises (SMEs) starting business operations which are bound to spend a big slice of their capital just getting those permits and clearances, according to Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr., Philexport president.

"Imagine, we even have a stupid law which requires businesses to get clearances for not causing noise pollution," he pointed out.

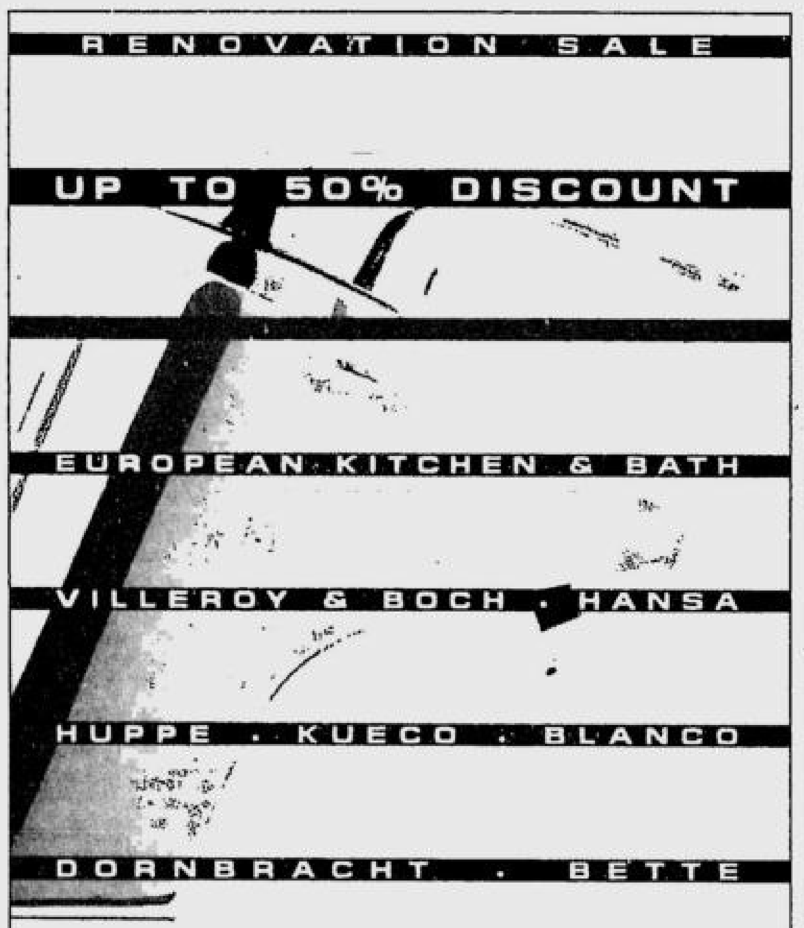
All those government agencies should coordinate or set up a common office like the one-stop export documentation center, he said. The processing of export papers has been reduced to a few minutes when the one-stop center was set up by Philexport, he pointed out.

Ortiz-Luis said that Philexport recently commissioned Technotrix Philippines to review the country's environmental laws and validate pervasive complaints that many of these laws have discouraged investments.

The study has found that one of the most difficult to hurdle by start-up businesses in identified critical industries or located in critical areas was getting environmental clearance certificates.

The problem has been found to be more acute to enterprises located within the jurisdiction of the LLDA.

Technotrix also warned that if the ban on incinerators spelled out in the recently passed Clean Air Act is strictly implemented, it may kill the cement industry. The older cement factories do not have state-of-the-art technology to capture the dust waste resulting from the manufacture of cement.



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Per DTI - NCR Permit No. AI-0150 Series of 2001

India exec says Manila can become IT powerhouse

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

NIIT (National Institute for Information Technology) Ltd. of India, one of the world's leading IT schools and software developers, is optimistic that the Philippines can become an information technology powerhouse like India.

NIIT marketing head for Ascan Yogesh Sethi said that Filipinos and Indians shared common traits—both speak good English, are hardworking, possess keen problem-solving traits, inclination to learn and apply new things, and have a strong sense of competitiveness.

Sethi said that with these traits, "there is no reason why the Philippines cannot be an IT powerhouse" and join the three "I's" of the IT world, namely India, Israel and Ireland. "The Filipino only needs good training to develop his skills and be deployed in any part of the world," Sethi said. The Philippines has $50 million in software exports annually which is a long way behind India's $5 billion tally.

By training, Sethi meant that an institution should produce graduates that are not only well equipped with the IT tools but also adroit in deploying their talents.

Sethi said NIIT decided to penetrate the Philippine market to "help develop its human resources and create a groundswell of IT professionals."

He said that NIIT's special program ensures students of being updated with the latest trends in IT with the institution's close alliance with corporate end-users as well as its complementary venture into software development.

NIIT was largely responsible for the development of India into a leading exporter of software programs.

The Philippine licensee of NIIT is Mind Stream Inc. (a subsidiary of ePLDT), venture capital firm Project Quest, entrepreneur Jay Silayan and investment banker Benedict Perez. NIIT is opening five branches in the country this year—Makati, Manila, Quezon City, Ortigas and Alabang.

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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

Internet domain registry bucks poor service claims

ALLEGATIONS made against the service provided by the DotPH domain registry were unfounded and completely without basis, according to results of a meeting of the IT Council's sub-cluster on consumer protection at the Board of Investments office in Makati City.

DotPH is the official registry for the .ph, .com.ph, .net.ph and .org.ph domains. It is tasked with the responsibility of accepting registrations for these domains and administering the database in accordance with the smooth functioning of the Domain Name System (DNS).

The issue of poor service by DotPH was first taken up by ITECC in a meeting two weeks ago. A series of postings in two mailing lists had brought the matter to the attention of Consumer Protection co-chairs Dennis Deveza and Jonathan Domingo. They agreed to provide a forum to discuss the issue and invited the concerned parties.

Present at that meeting were representatives of DotPH and some members of the mailing lists. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that the complaints would consolidate the issues raised against DotPH and submit it to the consumer protection sub-cluster at the next meeting. A copy would also be given to DotPH and sufficient time allotted for its response.

However, at the subsequent sub-cluster meeting last Friday, no such list was submitted and no one stepped forward to substantiate the complaints made regarding the service provided by DotPH.

Joel Disini, CEO of DotPH, said they were glad that the issue of customer service has been laid to rest. "The allegations made in the mailing lists were disturbing, to say the least, because they reflected badly on the efforts of DotPH personnel who work hard to provide good customer support."

The focus now shifts to an unsigned petition submitted by a Mr. J.R. Contreras of Inter.Net to ITECC last Friday. The petition called for a redelegation of the registry functions to a body whose composition, responsibilities and structure have yet to be determined.

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   Costabella Beach Resort - ***Mactan, Cebu***
   Le Soleil de Boracay - ***Boracay***
   Palmas del Mar - ***Bacolod City***
   Pearl Farm Beach Resort - ***Davao***
   Ridgeview Chalet - ***Cagayan de Oro***
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Local bourse to undertake IPO by Aug. 2 next year

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is targeting its much-awaited initial public offering by Aug. 8 next year or exactly two years after the effectivity of the new Securities Regulation Code.

PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said in a press briefing yesterday that instead of rushing with the IPO—the final stage of the demutualization strategy required by the new law—it was necessary to await a right environment for the maiden offering.

"We'd like to see PSE fully demutualized and its shares listed on or before Aug. 8, 2002," Garcia said.

The SRC requires the PSE to shed its mutual status or ownership by members by Aug. 8 this year. However, PSE officials do not believe that the IPO must be done simultaneously with such conversion.

To date, the PSE has already converted the seats held by members into shares. By May 9, the local bourse is set to amend its charter to convert the shareholdings of each of its 184 member-brokers into trading rights.

Asked why the PSE needed to wait for two years after the SRC's effectivity to pursue the listing, Garcia explained: "We follow the rule that we won't list the shares until the shares are attractive to investors . . . It's an embarrassment to invite companies to list in your exchange when your own shares are not attractive."

Between Aug. 8, 2001, when the shares would have been converted into trading rights of member-brokers and the target IPO date a year after, Garcia said the PSE would need to prepare by boosting its profit centers.

He acknowledged that the only way to make PSE shares attractive to the public was to show that it had a sustainable revenue stream. Once the PSE becomes a public company its balance sheet would have to be scrutinized just like any other company.

The demutualization model approved by the PSE's 15-member board would allow brokers to retain trading rights even if they have divested their shareholdings.

Last December, the PSE's member-brokers approved the conversion of the exchange into a stock corporation with an authorized capital stock of P5 billion. Their seats were converted into shares with a par value of P8 million, which will be distributed to each member who will still be able to trade at the PSE even if they have unloaded these shares.

Based on the latest financial report of the PSE, its total assets (adjusted by valuation increments) amounted to P1.57 billion as of last Oct. 31 in the form of cash, short- and long-term investments, receivables, property, equipment and other current assets. On the other hand, its liabilities amounted to only P95 million, thus leaving it with a net worth of P1.47 billion.

To determine each member's share in the demutualized company, the net worth of P1.47 billion was divided into 184, representing the number of outstanding members, thus resulting in a share of P8 million each.

With an assumed par value of P1, the number of shares that will be issued to each member will thus be 8 million shares.

Alaska terminates deal with Quaker Oats

ALASKA Milk Corp., the country's leading milk firm, said yesterday it will terminate a cereal distribution deal with Quaker Oats Asia Inc. starting April.

Alaska Milk investor relations manager Nona Torres told Reuters the break-up was primarily due to PepsiCo Inc.'s purchase of Quaker Oats Co., the parent firm of Quaker Oats Asia.

"There have been a change in ownership. That's basically the reason. We don't know who the new distributor of Quaker Oats will be," Torres said.

The oatmeal deal was the second to be disrupted this year between Alaska Milk and a foreign food firm.

Alaska earlier broke its exclusive distribution deal with Nabisco International following the purchase by the US-based Philip Morris of the biscuit firm.

Kraft Foods, a unit of Philip Morris, will now handle the distribution of Nabisco products such as Chips Ahoy, Oreo Cookies and Ritz crackers in the Philippines.

Alaska said the termination of the deals would have little impact on the company's earnings.

"On the revenue side, we believe that Alaska milk products will replace those losses (Nabisco and Quaker). We believe the impact will be marginal," Torres said.

Alaska has said it expected a 35-percent drop in net income for 2001 as a result of higher costs of imported raw materials, primarily skimmed milk powder.

Alaska projected its net income to reach only P250 million this year against P388 million in 2000.

Alaska was untraded yesterday. It closed at P2.10 when it was last traded on March 22. *Reuters*

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Union Bank of the Philippines** fixed April 6 as the record date for stockholders entitled to vote at its annual stockholders' meeting on June 1.

* * *

EASYCALL Communication Philippines Inc. informed the Exchange that the Securities and Exchange Commission approved its amended articles of incorporation reflecting the increase in its authorized capital stock from P100 million to P200 million.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. said it has not been officially informed about the reported suit filed by **Campofrio Alimentacion SA of Spain**. The alleged suit is regarding the deal between San Miguel and **Ayala Corp.** for the acquisition of **Pure Foods Corp.**, a competitor of **San Miguel Campocarne Corp.**, a joint-venture company of San Miguel and Campofrio.

* * *

GLOBAL Business Bank Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 26, 3:30 p.m., at the Head Office, GlobalBank Center, Makati City.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Bankard Inc.** postponed its annual stockholders meeting for this year to May 10. Its by-laws was likewise amended changing the schedule of the annual stockholders' meeting from the second Thursday of April to the last Thursday of May each year.

* * *

GERARDO Anonas and Walter Wassmer were elected as chair and vice chair, respectively, of **Victorias Milling Corp.** It also appointed new officers, they are: Arthur Aguilar, COO; Abelardo Bugay, VP for manufacturing; Carolina Diaz, acting controller; and Nilo Florcruz, AVP and head of Makati office. Ann Rizza dela Cruz resigned as controller.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **F&J Prince Holdings Corp.** scheduled on April 16 was postponed pending preparation of the annual report to stockholders which will not be ready by said date. ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***

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✓ XML/JAVA Scripting Seminar March.23-24, 2001
✓ Industry Conference May 24 -25, 2001
- Migrating Your Business to Web
- Web Design Process: Art, Technology, and Strategy
- Testing Your Web Application Security'
- Knowing Your Market Demographics and Building Brands on the Internet
- Building Online Communities
- Mobile Computing and Elements of Mobile Experience
- Building Wireless Back Office/Infrastructure
- Introduction to Wireless Mark-Up Language (WML) and Emerging Standards for Wireless Devices
- Introduction to Blue Tooth Technology
- Designing PDA Applications'

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, March 27, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	10,000
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69	69	136,800
Equitable Pcl Bank Inc.	50.5	50.5	50	50	41,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	221	225	221	225	16,270
Philippine National Bank	49	49	48	48	102,900
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29.5	29	29.5	30,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	25	25	25	40,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1175	1180	1175	1175	3,340
Sun Life Financial Serv.	820	820	820	820	3,340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Diversified Fin. Network	6	8	6	8	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	870,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,400,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Piltel	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	705	705	700	700	255,530
Ivantage Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	370,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.049	0.05	0.048	0.048	65,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	45	45	44.5	44.5	6,400
Manila Electric Co. B	55.5	56	55.5	55.5	343,300
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.72	1.64	1.64	2,506,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	1	0.92	0.98	2,120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1	1.08	1	1.04	3,400,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED		PRODU	CTS		
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	5,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	51,600,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	11.75	47,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	34	34	33.5	33.5	26,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.56	1.74	1.56	1.74	120,000
RFM Corp.	1.1	4.1	1.1	1.1	348,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	44,500
San Miguel Corp. B	53	53	53	53	30,200
Universal Robina Corp.	5	5	4.5	4.5	151,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	30,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	534,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	70,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.25	2,700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	280,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	70,000
APC Group Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.16	0.16	2,900,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	23,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.75	13	12.5	13	7,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.42	2.6	2.42	2.46	13,339,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	150,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.3	0.3	1,410,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.06	1	1	2,810,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.02	2.02	1.98	2	15,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	36,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	900,000
Ionics Inc.	11.5	11.5	10.5	10.5	84,000
Ipeople Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	120,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.71	0.73	1,550,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	54,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.48	0.48	2,750,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	910,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,770,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	10,660,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.28	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	37,000
Music Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	37,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	500,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	700,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	130,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10 5	10.5	10.25	10.25	255,300
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corporation	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	3,090,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.59	0.53	0.53	5,610,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0 53	0 53	0 52	0.53	1,620,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Abs-Cbn Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40.5	42	40 5	42	130,000
Banco Filipino Non-Conv.	100	100	100	100	42,100
Equitable Pcl Bank-War	3.75	3.75	3.5	3.5	583,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	675	675	675	675	200
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0026	82,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.2	2,102,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	1,200,000
Cyber Bay Corporation	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.32	0.32	1,150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.9	1.96	1.86	1.88	18,135,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	2,200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.1,	6.2	2,229,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	380,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	610,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	19,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	900,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	3,200,000
Interport Res.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	130,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	384,150	28,725,340.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	287,914,430	310,714,870.00
PRO	27,086,000	60,838,940.00
Mining	22,090,000	444,600.00
OIL	11,340,000	136,300.00
GRAND TOTALS :	348,814,580	400,860,050.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	600.75	UP 0.24
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,971.75	DOWN 0.01
PRO	520.44	DOWN 9.12
Mining	1,165.40	UP 7.80
OIL	1.69	UP 0.06
All Shares Index	703.32	DOWN 0.84
Composite	1,446.99	DOWN 1.38

NO. OF ADVANCES: 26; NO. OF DECLINES: 36; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 99 NO. OF TRADES: 2,140

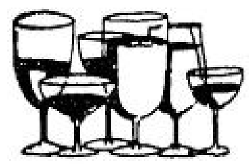
CURRENCIES

Mar. 26, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.123722	1.000000	49.0480
Japan	Yen	0.009153	0.008145	0.3995
United Kingdom	Pound	1.601641	1.425300	69.9081
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144079	0.128216	6.2887
Switzerland	Franc	0.652796	0.580923	28.4931
Canada	Dollar	0.718584	0.639468	31.3646
Singapore	Dollar	0.629712	0.560381	27.4856
Australia	Dollar	0.557264	0.495909	24.3233
Bahrain	Dinar	2.980853	2.652661	130.1077
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299643	0.266652	13.0787
Brunei	Dollar	0.626902	0.557880	27.3629
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000096	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025452	0.022650	1.1109
UAE	Dirham	0.305949	0.272264	13.3540
Korea	Won	0.000860	0.000765	0.0375
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.889900	43.6478
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.454999	22.3168
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135664	6.6540
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.403819	19.8065
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064672	3.1720
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022060	1.0820
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000460	0.0226
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.149670	7.3410
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004439	0.2177
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005348	0.2623
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.02206	1.0820
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.12994	55.4213

Banking Crisis 101

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

THE BANGKO Sentral and Urban Bank executives are continuing to blaze away at each other, with no less than the shuttered bank's president, Teodoro Borlongan, coming out for the first time into the electronic open to fire his own salvo since the bank was shut down nearly a year ago.

Borlongan has apparently been smoked out after a fellow Atenean, Eduardo Gana of AIG Investments, sent back the "Gabby Benavidez/ True Lies" e-mail series of pro-Urban Bank commentaries with his own caustic comments.

Gana also suspected that Benavidez was Borlongan himself, an allegation that the former TOYM awardee for banking denied. What was not denied was that Ateneo itself had some considerable amount of funds that got locked into the bank, including about P5-7 million earmarked for a new chapel.

For those interested in the Bangko Sentral and the Urban Bank exchange, the electronic debate may be accessed at the pro-Urban Bank website, www.urbancase.freeservers.com.

Makes good reading for Banking Crisis 101.

Urban Bank chair Arsenio Bartolome, in the meantime, is keeping his head down unless his "free-to-travel" pass gets revoked. Last weekend, Bartolome spent time contemplating with some priests—no, not Fr. Robert Reyes—in Tagaytay.

Herr again

THE ANTI-ERAP text brigade sprang back to life yesterday, just like in the good old days, after that news about Miriam Defensor-Santiago came out, promising she will have herself shot to death in Rizal Park if the People Power Coalition wins 13-0 against the Erap stragglers.

Since the INQUIRER is supposed to be a family newspaper and this is the Business section, we will not reprint the text message that bounced back and forth, back and forth, except that the texters apparently were serious in finally putting someone else's and the nation's misery to an end.

Pro-Gloria, this time

BENJAMIN Chua Jr. of Cathay Pacific Steel (no relation to the airline) has been elected president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, succeeding taipan Lucio Tan.

A cum laude BS Chemical Engineering graduate of the University of the Philippines, Chua was not even considered for the two-year position even late last year despite his being executive vice president of the powerful chamber.

Reason? He was pro-Gloria, according to the grapevine, when it was still quite dangerous for Chinoys to be identified with that camp.

The FFCCCI apparently has a tradition of electing someone from its ranks who is perceived to be close to whoever is the current occupant in Malacañang.

Short takes

- VICENTE "Vince" Socco, the recently resigned senior vice president for marketing of Toyota Philippines, has been hired by Toyota Japan to head the regional marketing efforts of the automotive giant.

Socco will be based in Singapore, and will receive a better pay package now that he is considered an expatriate, starting next month.

- Accra lawyer Francis Lim said his client, Ronald Charles, has not even met socialite Rosemarie Arenas, contrary to the allegation of Ramon "RJ" Jacinto that was printed in this column Monday.

Charles and his principal Shig Katayama are now suing Jacinto, who is also countersuing them, over their fallen venture, First Women Credit.

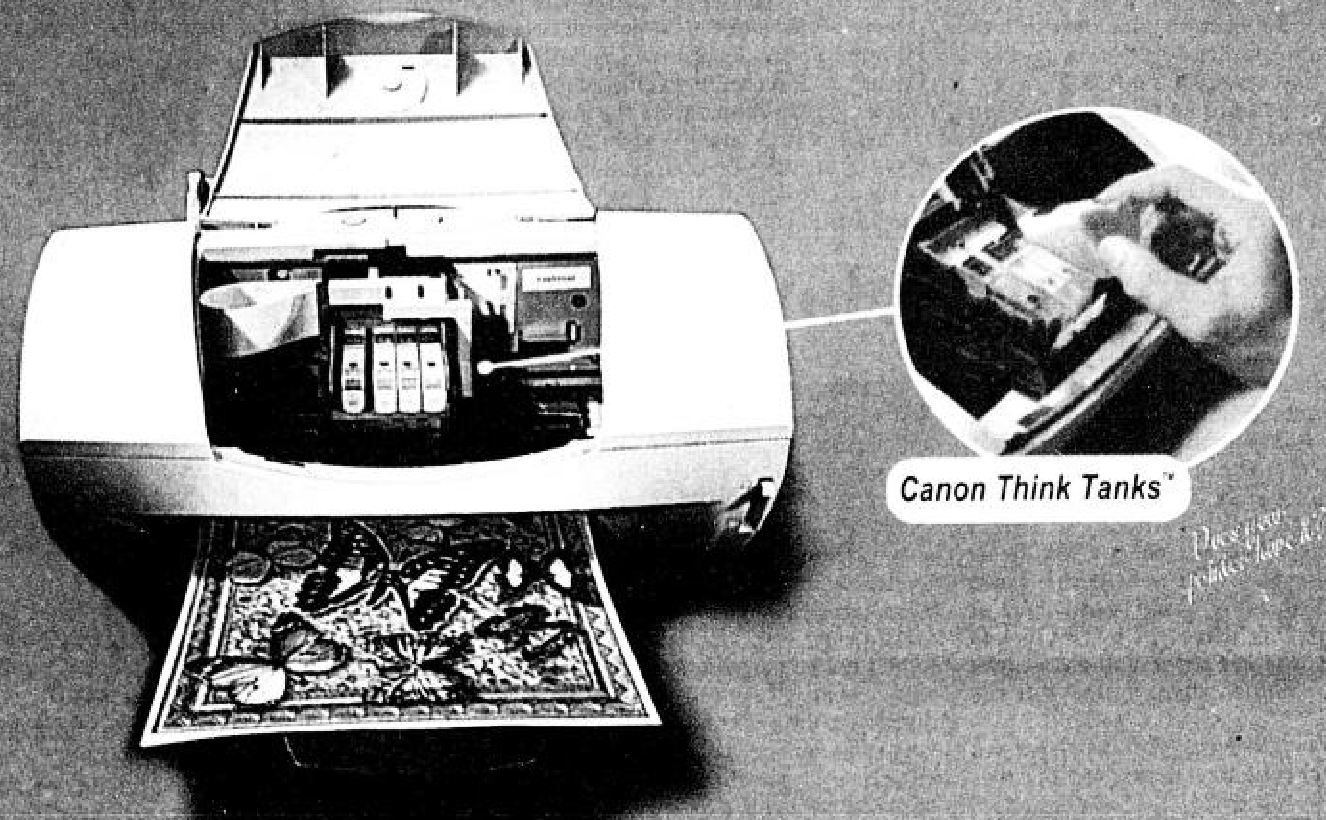
Charles, according to the airport grapevine, was escorted to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Friday by one "Citoy" Arenas, said to be a son of the socialite, as the American left Manila for Hong Kong aboard Cathay Pacific Flight 918.

Heard through the grapevine

THE PEOPLE Power Coalition has a copy of an explosive news videotape that Channel 2 had scheduled to air, but decided at the last minute not to, during the Estrada heydays.

The purloined tape features what now amounts to be a "dead man talking," an exclusive interview with a dying police informer who implicated, but later retracted after he was put on a 24-hour guard in his prison cell, a top police official now seeking an elective national position.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)



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Get A Grip On The Game.

Gov't, IMF start talks on monitoring scheme

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT and a team from the International Monetary Fund start today a two-week negotiation to firm up the numbers that will serve as the basis for the Fund's post-program monitoring of the Philippine economy.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said the economic team would stick to the targets drawn by the Development Budget Coordinating Council.

"In fact, we hope to have better numbers in the next review of our program," said Romulo as he insisted that the DBCC estimates, although more optimistic than the IMF projections for the country, were realistic.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic team has set the country's growth targets at 4 to 4.5 percent for the gross national product; 2.8 to 4.3 percent, gross domestic product or GDP; 6 to 7 percent, inflation rate, and P145 billion for this year's budget deficit.

The Fund, however, is projecting a slower economic growth and higher inflation this year versus last year's rates even if it saw an improved economic outlook for the Philippines following a peaceful transition in the government.

The IMF projects a 3.3-percent growth in the GDP this year. It also said inflation would peak at 8 percent by the end of the first semester.

Last year, the growth in GDP hit 3.9 percent while inflation averaged at 4.4 percent despite a grave political crisis during the Estrada administration.

The IMF has expressed concerns over the country's ability to rein in the budget deficit after the gap swelled to P136.1 billion last year from its target of P62.5 billion.

"The IMF urged the early adoption of a comprehensive and well-designed medium-term fiscal program that will reverse the fiscal deterioration in recent years and to strengthen the credibility of the target," the IMF said in a statement issued after its March 1 executive board meeting on the Philippines.

Sean Nolan, IMF resident representative in Manila, hinted that the Fund's board was not convinced that the government could rein in the budget deficit this year. "It is, however, hopeful that fiscal consolidation will start either this year or next year."

Nolan earlier said the Philippines should enter into a post-program monitoring arrangement with the IMF after the country had exceeded its loan quota of $1.16 billion (equivalent to about 880 special drawing rights or IMF's artificial currency) last year.

The country's outstanding loan with the IMF was placed at $1.77 billion.

Nolan said that while the country could borrow up to more than 300 percent of its quota, a post-program monitoring was required for countries that have exceeded the quota.

He said the post program monitoring would last until the Philippines had restored its below-quota loan status.

Under the post-program monitoring, the IMF will review the country's economic performance three times yearly compared to a yearly consultation for countries without any program with the Fund.

Unlike the standby arrangement, however, the post-monitoring will not feature a letter of intent nor require a performance criteria with the Philippines.

Nolan said the arrangement would formally start once the Philippine government has submitted its economic targets.

Shares

(From page B1)

"The problems in Asia, particularly Japan, are still far from being resolved and the same story goes for the United States. The economic slowdown in the US won't be solved overnight," said Lawrence de Leon of Magnum International Securities Inc.

"I do not think that the market is convinced of anything new," said Roberto Cruz of PNB Securities Inc. after stocks fell despite a brief gain in early trades.

Volume fell to 343 million shares worth P401 million from 1.47 billion shares worth P586 million on Monday.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Filinvest Land Inc. and Bank of the Philippine Islands stayed unchanged. *AFP*

ICTSI profit hits ₱31M

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

PUBLICLY listed International Container Terminal Services Inc. yesterday said it posted a net profit of P31.3 million last year, a turnaround from the P1.3-billion loss in the previous year.

In a statement, ICTSI attributed the growth to the strong performance of its container terminal operations in the Philippines, Argentina, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Tanzania.

The company said the robust growth in volumes, revenues and operating incomes in these terminals minimized the negative impact of a weak peso against the dollar on ICTSI.

Total volume jumped 24 percent to 2.7 million ton equivalent units (TEU) last year from 2.1 million TEU in 1999.

The Manila International Container Terminal handled a total of 958,585 TEUs in 2000 or 11 percent more than the previous year's volume. The volumes handled by ICTSI subsidiary, International Holdings Corp., increased by 22 percent to 1.6 million TEUs.

The increased volumes led to a 32-percent growth in the company's revenue to P12.5 billion in 2000 from P9.5 billion in 1999.

ICTSI's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization rose by 30 percent to P4.5 billion from P3.4 billion.

ICTSI said that the net income was minimized largely because of the 24-percent decline in the Philippine peso against the US dollar. The peso fall resulted in foreign exchange losses amounting to P459 million during the year.

ICTSI's P1.3-billion loss in 1999 was brought about by the write-off of its P1.6-billion investment in Puerto Rosario in Argentina and the P991-million accretion of the company's convertible notes.

50 YEARS IN MANILA

Dutch Ambassador to the Philippines Theo Arnold (left) and KLM regional general manager Roger Johannes (third from left) are given a tour of one of KLM's aircraft. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines recently celebrated its 50th year of service to Manila and the 81st year since it began operations in Holland.

ROGER MARGALLO

People's Park plan bared

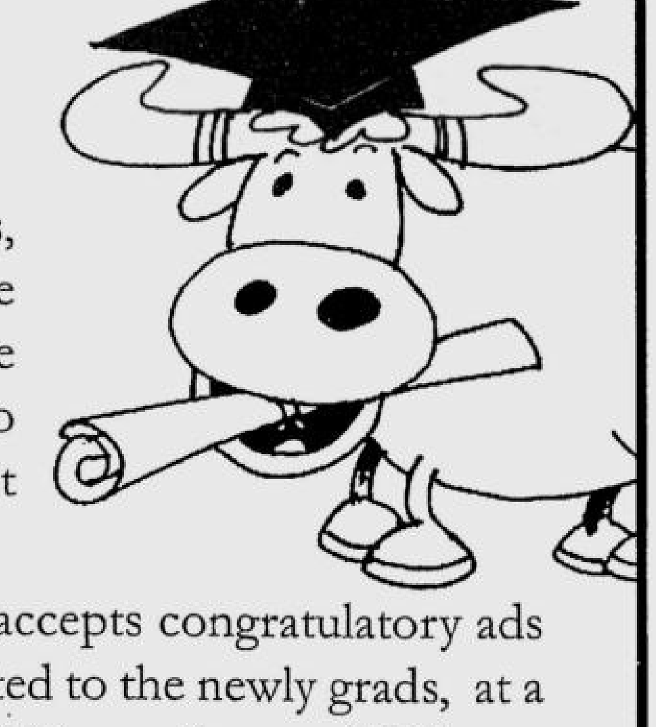
INSPIRED by the People Power II and the attention it generated from all over the world, the People's Shrine Foundation Inc. (PSFI) will spearhead projects to beautify, maintain and develop the People's Park into a historical landmark and "holy ground."

People's Park is recognized as a significant part of Philippine history. It was the site of two bloodless "revolutions" that booted out of Malacañang two Presidents (the late Ferdinand E. Marcos and Joseph E. Estrada), and helped shap the nation and the lives of the Filipino people.

Once developed, People's Park will have two main areas—the commercial area and the park proper.

The commercial area, located between POEA and Robinsons Galleria, will house fast-food chains, canteens, several stores, kiosks and other smaller types of establishments. The park proper, found between the Securities and Exchange Commission Building and Corinthian Gardens, will have an activity area to be used as venues for bazaars, exhibits, cultural events as well as memorabilia and murals of popular People Power movements.

PSFI, a non-stock organization composed of representatives from the government, the Edsa Shrine and the private sector, is expecting "many very important guests, visitors, and tourists from all parts of the world to come and see the venue of the triumphant "people power."



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Gov't asked to clarify LLDA jurisdiction

INDUSTRY leaders have sought a review of the mandate and jurisdiction of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

This came out at the height of discussions on the jurisdiction of the LLDA during the recently concluded Forum on Environmental Laws, organized by the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc.

In a statement, Philexport president Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr. said a review of LLDA's mandate was necessary not only to resolve conflicts arising from the overlapping functions of LLDA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) but also to clear the scope of its jurisdiction.

"A lot of companies, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), are confused over the functions and area of jurisdiction of LLDA," said Ortiz-Luis.

Representatives from industries, NGOs and chambers of commerce who were in the meeting reiterated that reexamining the LLDA mandate would help transform it from a regulatory body into a developmental and promotional agency.

They likewise questioned the LLDA's authority to issue cease and desist orders or to close down establishments even if they are located outside the Laguna de Bay area.

"As a development authority, LLDA should be flexible in implementing programs and activities to promote as well as develop the Laguna de Bay area," they said.

Unlike the DENR or the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), LLDA does not give incentives or consideration for companies that were experiencing difficulties in complying with environmental laws due to various constraints, they noted.

LLDA chief legal counsel Teresa Oledan, one of the resource persons in the forum, defended LLDA by saying that the agency is merely enforcing the law.

Other issues raised by participants of the forum were the preparation of a matrix or checklist of the relevant environmental laws that companies must comply with; clear definition of the role of local government units (LGUs) in the issuance of necessary environmental permits and clearances; identification of criteria for classifying attainment and non-attainment areas for the Clean Air Act, and clarification and promotion of the concept of social acceptability. *Romeo D. Garcia, PhilexportNews & Features*

RFM unfazed by possible Purefoods-Monterey merger

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

FOOD and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. is unfazed by the possible merger of its competitors Purefoods-Hormel Co. and Monterey Foods Corp.

RFM president and CEO Jose Concepcion III said the soon-to-be concluded takeover by San Miguel Corp. of the Ayala Group's majority stake in Purefoods-Hormel would not be a major threat to the company.

"Market positioning-wise, the merger of the No. 1 and No. 3 players in the chicken and meat processing business will consolidate the industry. With Monterey and Purefoods becoming one company, the number of the industry's major players will be down to three from four," Concepcion said. Another major industry player in this business is Vitarich Corp.

"What actually concerns us more is the small (broiler) companies. They are giving us a tough competition," he said.

Concepcion said the industry's most serious concern was the influx of cheap chicken imports, which posed unfair competition to local industry players and have resulted in a price war in the local market.

"San Miguel should be careful. If the price war persists, it will tend to lose more now that it has a larger population," he added.

In the wake of the Monterey-Purefoods merger, Concepcion said the RFM Group was also open to potential investors who will put more money into the country's second largest food and beverage company.

RFM posted a net income of P96 million last year, compared to P14 million in 1999. This was attributed to a 73-percent decline in financial charges.

Pure Foods Corp., for its part, said net income last year surged 22 percent as it sold more hotdogs, hams and dressed chicken.

Net income in 2000 rose to P888.4 million from P727.8 million in 1999, the company said in a statement.

Rising sales of processed meats, poultry and feeds boosted Pure Foods' consolidated net sales 19 percent to P12.6 billion, the company said.

Pure Foods operates its processed meats division jointly with Hormel Foods International.

Mahathir bares package to prop up economy

KUALA LUMPUR—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad yesterday unveiled a three-billion-ringgit ($789 million) supplementary budget to shore up the Malaysian economy amid a US slowdown.

Mahathir also announced a string of new measures to encourage domestic consumption, and plans to liberalize regulations on equity, property and asset investment by foreigners.

For one year from April, employees' contribution to the state retirement fund will be cut from 11 to 9 percent. The government will also abolish a 50-ringgit tax on credit cards imposed since 1997.

A new 500-million ringgit entrepreneur rehabilitation and development fund would be set up to improve financing for small and medium-sized industries.

"The US slowdown is expected to impact adversely on our exports and growth prospects. Under these circumstances, the government has to take preemptive measures to ensure that the growth momentum is sustained," the premier told a news conference at parliament.

Mahathir said the government would seek parliament's approval to increase development spending by three billion ringgit, in addition to the 28.8 billion approved under the 2001 budget.

This would raise gross domestic product (GDP) growth by 1.1 percent, he said.

The government has forecast GDP to grow 7.0 percent this year but the premier said the figure was being revised and would be announced by the central bank Wednesday.

The federal government's 2001 budget deficit of 4.9 percent of gross national product "might rise a little bit" following the additional spending, he added.

Among new projects identified were 200 schools, 193 colleges, four universities, 6,600 houses for soldiers and 600 million ringgit in oil palm replanting subsidies and special assistance to rubber smallholders.

Mahathir said the government would assist in major infrastructure and utilities projects, including the Bakun hydroelectric dam, the Pulau Bunting coal power plant, the Tanjong Pelepas Port and Westport.

He said the finance ministry has formed a "flying squad" to ensure the speedy implementation of the projects. The ministry would study funding details and may consider issuing sovereign bonds, he added.

Mahathir said rules under the Foreign Investment Committee (FIC) would be amended to provide a "more liberal environment" for foreign investors.

But the details were still being worked out and an announcement would be made soon, he added.

To promote the sale of cars, the premier said civil servants can apply for car loans every five years instead of the present interval of seven years.

To reduce a property glut, the government would ban the construction of new office and commercial space. Incentives including exempting stamp duty and a higher finance margin will be given in residential sales.

Mahathir said the government would continue its monetary policy to ensure reasonable funding costs. The ringgit peg of 3.80 to the dollar, set in 1998 amid a recession, would also be maintained.

Asked if the central bank's 5.5-percent intervention rate would be reduced to lower borrowing costs, he said there was no need for this at the moment as interest rates were already low.

The premier said the government was prepared to undertake further measures if the US slowdown was sharper than anticipated.

The announcement led the stock market to close up 0.3 percent at the end of morning trade, led by construction stocks amid prospects of more government contracts, dealers said.

But they added that investors remained cautious about how effective the measures would be amid prevailing weak sentiment. *AFP*

Japan auto exports down 10.5%

TOKYO—Japanese auto exports fell 10.5 percent year-on-year to 339,271 vehicles in February owing to the US slowdown and a production shift to Europe, an industry group said Tuesday.

"The US economic slowdown depressed sales in the North American market, slashing Japanese exports," said Sugako Ito, a spokesperson for the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association.

"Exports to Europe also slipped as Japanese automakers continue to shift their production sites to the region," she said.

Vehicle exports to the United States slumped 11.3 percent last month to 128,684.

Shipments to the European Union plunged 26.5 percent to 68,985, after Japan's biggest carmaker Toyota Motor Corp. opened a new plant at Valenciennes, northern France, in January.

But Asia-bound Japanese auto exports climbed 4.6 percent to 30,355 in February.

Japanese exports of cars dropped 10 percent to 292,601 last month and truck shipments declined 14.7 percent to 43,627. Bus exports, however, edged up 4.9 percent to 3,043.

The overall value of vehicle exports, including auto parts, fell 10.7 percent to 6.8 billion yen ($55 million) in February.

Motorcycle exports dipped 1.3 percent to 162,230, the association said.

Nasdaq to buy 58% of Easdaq

LONDON—US Nasdaq, the world's second largest stock exchange, said on Tuesday it had agreed to buy 58 percent of Easdaq, the ailing pan-European electronic stock exchange based in Brussels.

Nasdaq said in a statement the long-anticipated deal was part of its European strategy, and an important link in its global trading platform. No financial details were given.

Discussions with other potential European partners continue, the US exchange said.

Nasdaq said it would rename Easdaq as Nasdaq Europe and, by May or June this year, will launch a newly developed ETS or European Trading System.

Nasdaq Europe will work closely with its market participants to establish a user-controlled European central counter-party, an electronic interface between buyers and sellers to facilitate the completion of trades. *Reuters*

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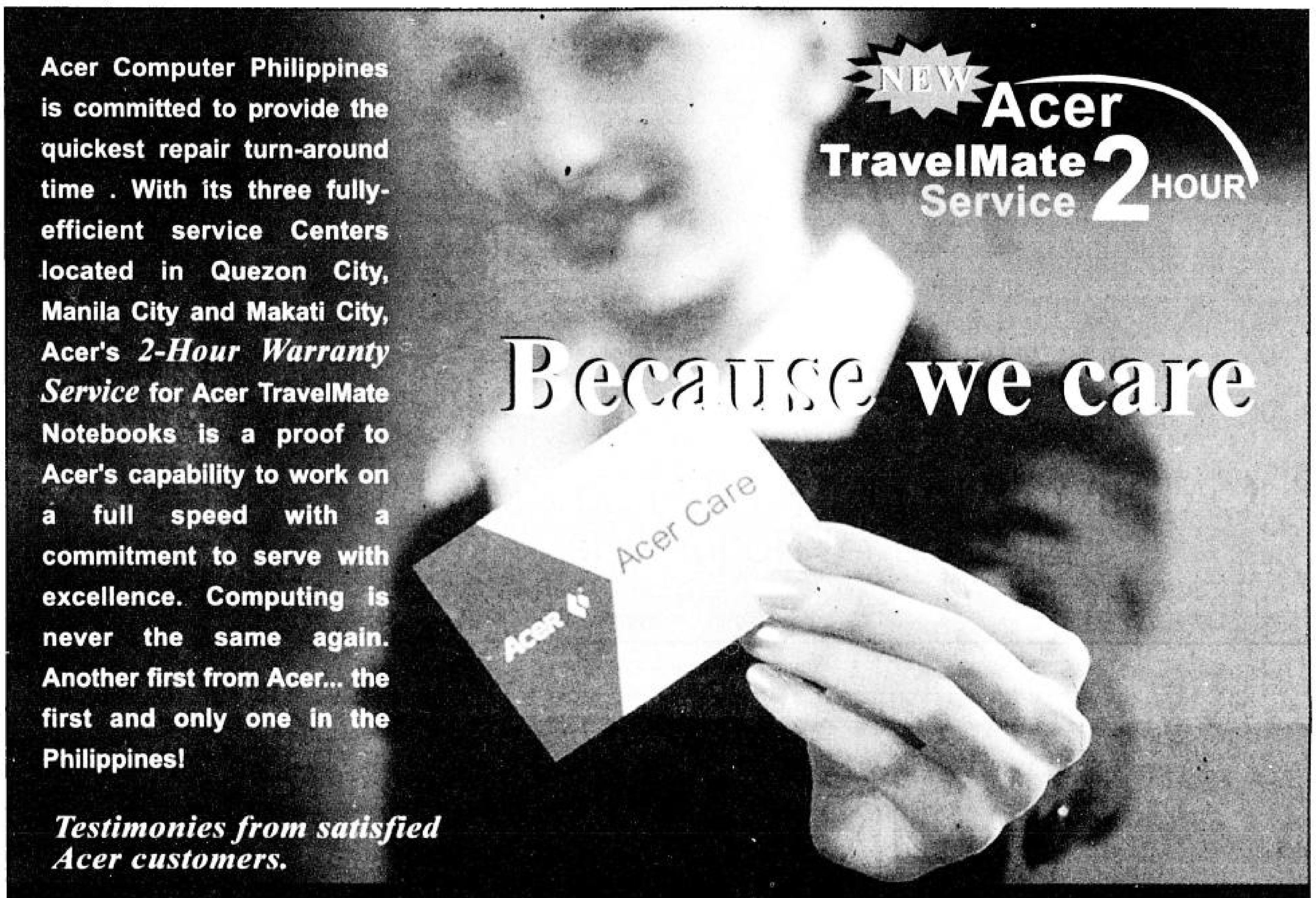
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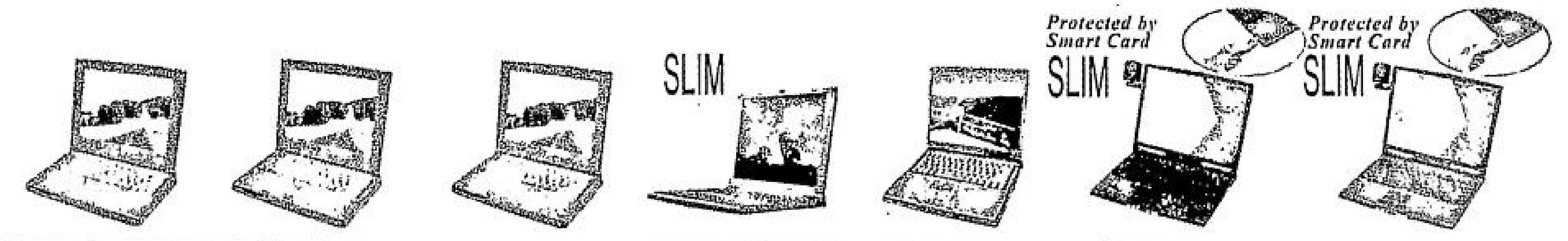

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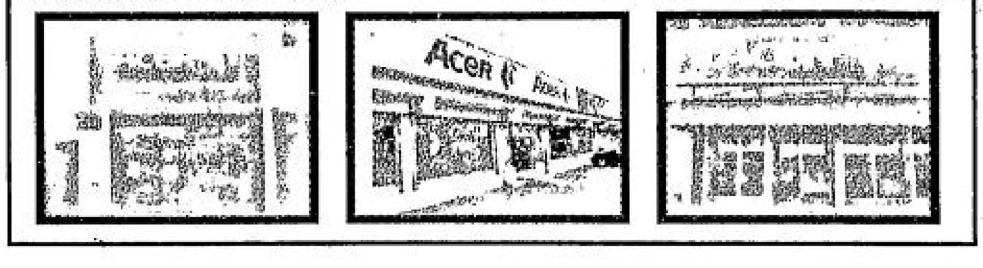

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SK trade exec heads for tough talks in US

SEOUL—South Korea and the United States will hold trade talks in Washington on Wednesday with both sides armed with a mounting list of complaints.

South Korea's Minister of State for Trade Hwang Doo-Yun left London for Washington on Tuesday for a four-day trip to include the first meetings with trade officials of new US President George W. Bush.

Hwang will raise Seoul's concern over US proposals to impose steel import restrictions when he meets US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick on Wednesday and Commerce Secretary Donald Evanson, a foreign affairs and trade ministry statement said.

Washington wants to apply pressure over quotas on imports of US movies, the auto trade and intellectual property rights.

Hwang is expected to raise concerns on "the negative impact" that US import restrictions would have on global trade, the statement said.

It warned that US measures to safeguard its steel industry would encourage global protectionism and negatively affect the planned early launch of a new international round of free trade talks.

"Hwang will demand US safeguard measures imposed in February on South Korea's carbon steel pipes be lifted," the statement read.

He is also to meet other top US government officials and lawmakers to encourage US businesses to invest more in South Korea, officials said.

Though strong political and military allies, the United States and South Korea have had sporadic trade frictions.

South Korea's new foreign minister Han Seung-Soo warned of more international trade disputes in his inauguration speech on Tuesday.

"The economies of the United States and Japan are slowing, and trade conflicts can easily occur, so our government should deal with them with wisdom," he said.

Last year, the office of US Trade Representative issued an annual report describing South Korea as "one of the toughest markets in the world for doing business" citing discrimination against foreign goods.

The USTR later warned it might move against South Korea for what it described as trade barriers in the pharmaceutical and automobile market. *AFP*

Debt-equity swap sought for Hyundai Engineering

SEOUL—South Korea's financial watchdog on Tuesday proposed a debt-equity swap as the best way to save Hyundai Group's ailing construction business.

Financial Supervisory Commission vice chief Jung Ki-Hong made the suggestion following reports that creditors want to convert 1.4 trillion won ($1.07 billion) of South Korea's biggest engineering company into shares.

"I believe a debt-equity conversion is the most plausible method if Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co. (HEC) capital is found to have been wiped out," Jung told reporters.

Yonhap news agency said HEC's equity capital, estimated at 2.1 trillion won, had been eaten up with 2000 net losses reaching 2.9 trillion won. The company and its auditors have yet to disclose the size of HEC's losses.

Jung said the size of a swap could be determined when auditors complete their investigation of HEC books.

Analysts welcomed the conversion proposal, saying it would boost management transparency.

"A debt-for-equity swap is inevitable and it has been widely expected to occur in May with the restructuring outcome available by that time," said Shinyoung Securities analyst Jeong Seong-Kook.

The swap would get creditors involved in the management of HEC, which narrowly avoided a default last year, Jeong said. He added that creditors could inject around 1.4 trillion won into the company if the weight of major shareholders was reduced.

HEC president Kim Yoon-Kyu warned Monday that the company's loss would snowball due to unpaid bills for major construction contracts in Iraq.

"The company will write off as many non-performing assets as possible to clean up its balance sheets, even though it will erode its capital," he said.

Since its near collapse last November, HEC has been kept afloat with debt roll-overs and hundreds of millions of dollars in lifeline loans. Of HEC's debt estimated at 4.5 trillion won, 2.4 trillion won will become due in the first half of this year.

Hyundai's construction, financial and electronics businesses are all in deep debt trouble. The group's founder Chung Ju-Yung died last week. *AFP*

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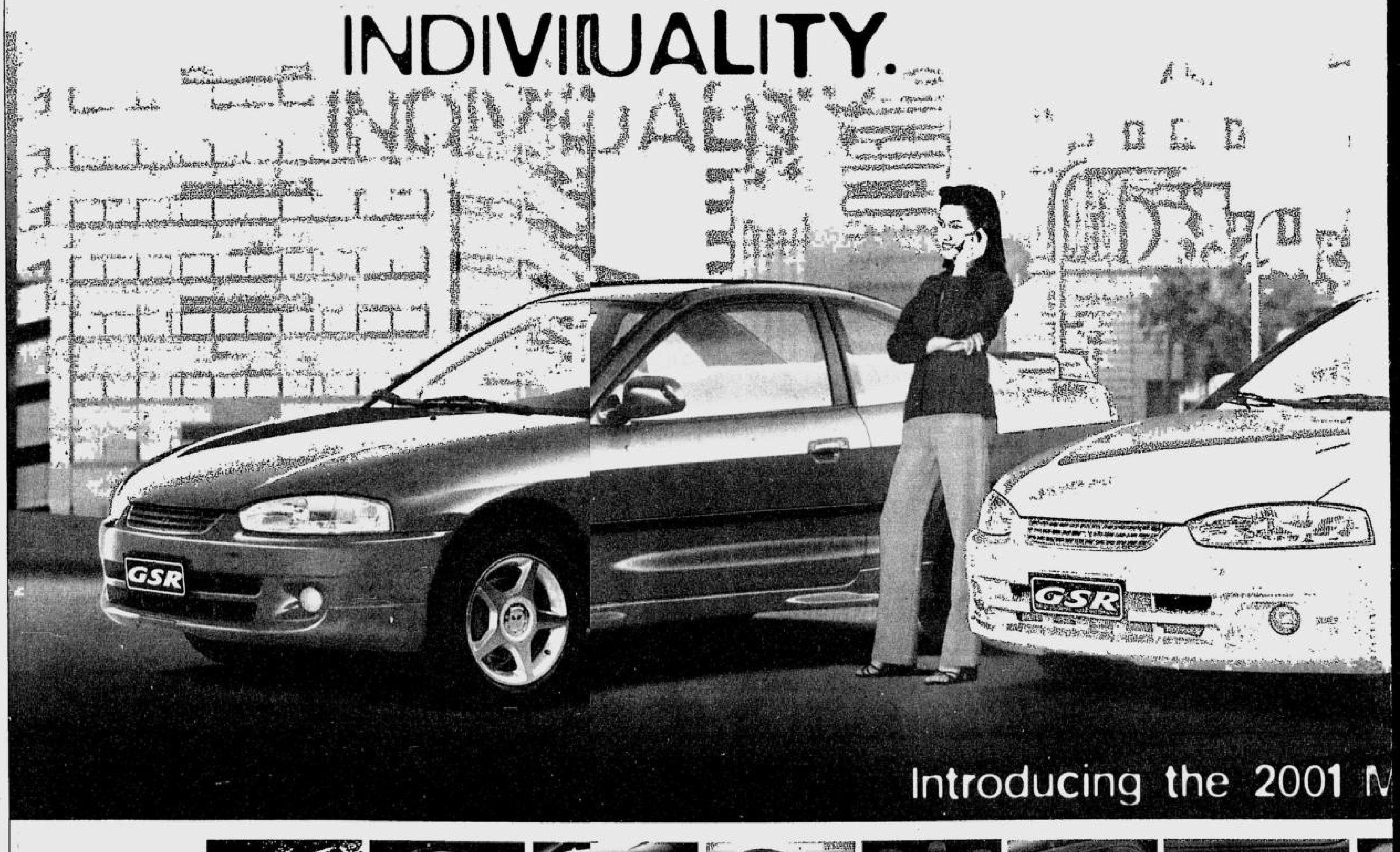

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WEAKENING ECONOMY

US banks tighten lending standards

WASHINGTON—US banks tightened business lending standards this month in the face of a weakening economy, according to a study by the Federal Reserve released here Monday.

"Business lending standards at banks had tightened further since early January while demand for business loans waned," the Fed's senior loan officer survey found.

But the study also revealed that the percentage of banks reporting tightening lending standards since the start of the year was down from 60 percent in the previous three-month survey to 50 percent.

More than half of domestic respondents "indicated that a less favorable economic outlook was a very important factor in their decision to tighten standards or terms," the Fed said.

Of foreign bank branches surveyed in the United States, 46 percent reported stricter standards on commercial and industrial loans, down from more than 80 percent in the January survey.

Respondents also said that demand for business loans had declined further since the beginning of the year, the Fed said. More than 40 percent of domestic banks and 23 percent of foreign branches reported "moderately or substantially weaker demand for commercial and industrial loans."

In the previous survey the comparable figures were 50 and 20 percent respectively.

It found that the principal reason for waning demand was "reduced investment in plant and equipment . . . followed by a decrease in the need for merger and acquisition financing."

The Fed survey was based on responses from loan officers at large domestic banks and US branches and agencies of foreign banks. *AFP*

PC price war looms in US

WASHINGTON—Personal computer makers are bracing for a fierce price war in the United States this year, but worldwide PC shipments are expected to grow nearly 11 percent, a research group said Monday.

Dataquest, a unit of Gartner Group, said some PC vendors are reducing profit margin gains to increase market penetration.

"We anticipate a price war in the United States in 2001, as direct vendors, Dell and Gateway, endeavor to gain market share from Compaq, Hewlett-Packard and IBM," said Martin Reynolds, group vice president and research fellow for Gartner.

"The direct vendors will lower margins to do this, which will cause others to give serious thought about how they run their PC business."

He added, however: "The price erosion will make other regions of the world buy more PCs, so the global vendors might also choose to shift their share from the United States to maintain profitability. US national vendors do not have that choice."

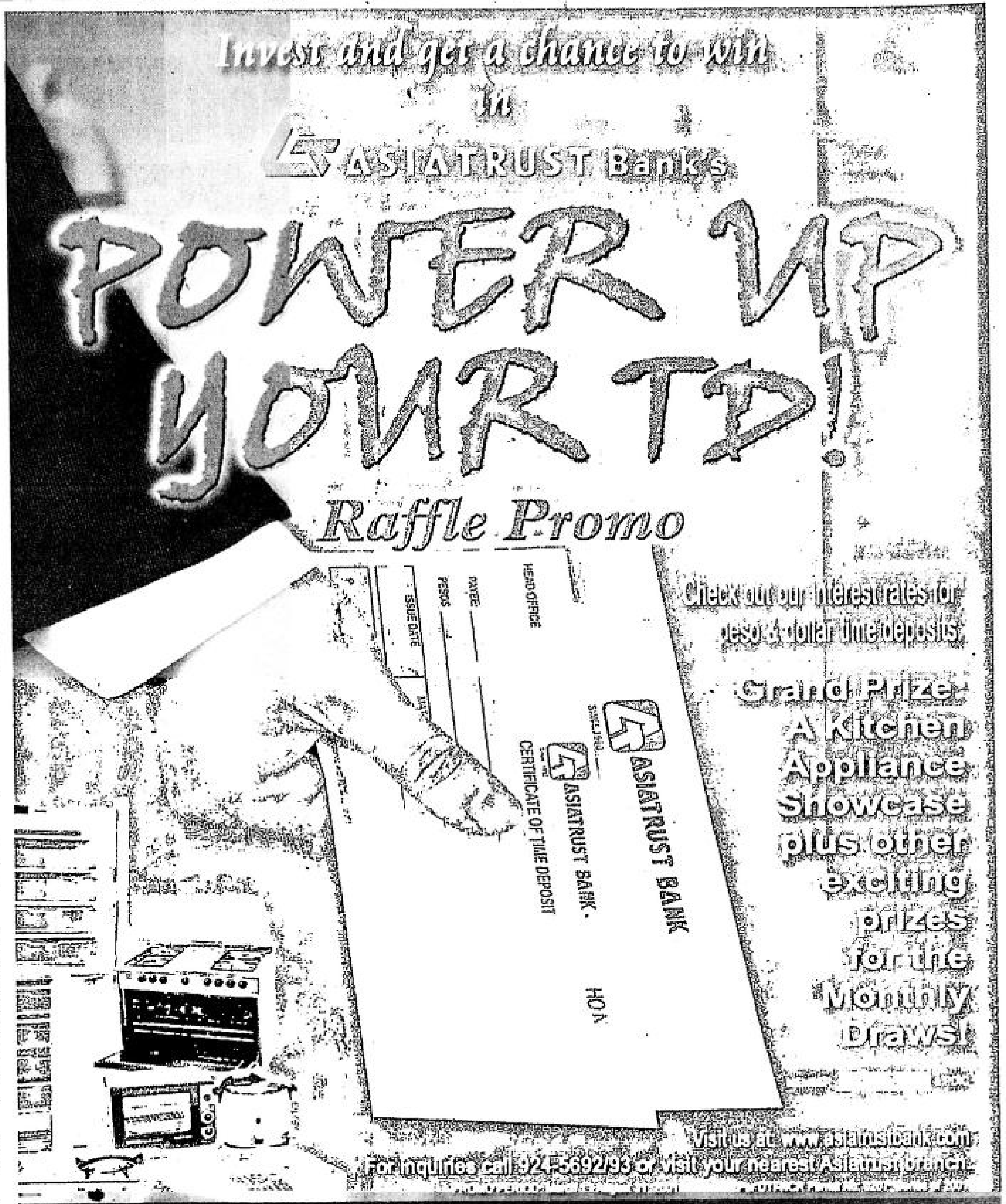
Worldwide PC shipments, excluding PC servers, are expected to total 144.5 million in 2001, an increase of 10.7 percent over 2000 shipments, Dataquest said.

"The PC industry suffered a nasty surprise in fourth quarter 2000 on account of the dramatic turn in the US economy," said George Shiffler, PC forecast coordinator for Dataquest.

"We're generally expecting an across-the-board slowdown in market growth this year on account of the global economic situation. The industry may be able to stimulate some added unit growth during 2001 in less saturated markets like Latin America through judicious price cutting and shrewd marketing campaigns, but those efforts could well be undercut by poor economic circumstances."

Dataquest analysts said the US PC market is nearly saturated, and Canada and Western Europe are not that far behind.

"Unless the industry is able to stimulate faster replacement cycles, shipment growth will undoubtedly slow in these markets," Shiffler said. "Given that these markets constitute 55 percent of the global PC market over the foreseeable future, that will put a significant damper on industry growth." *AFP*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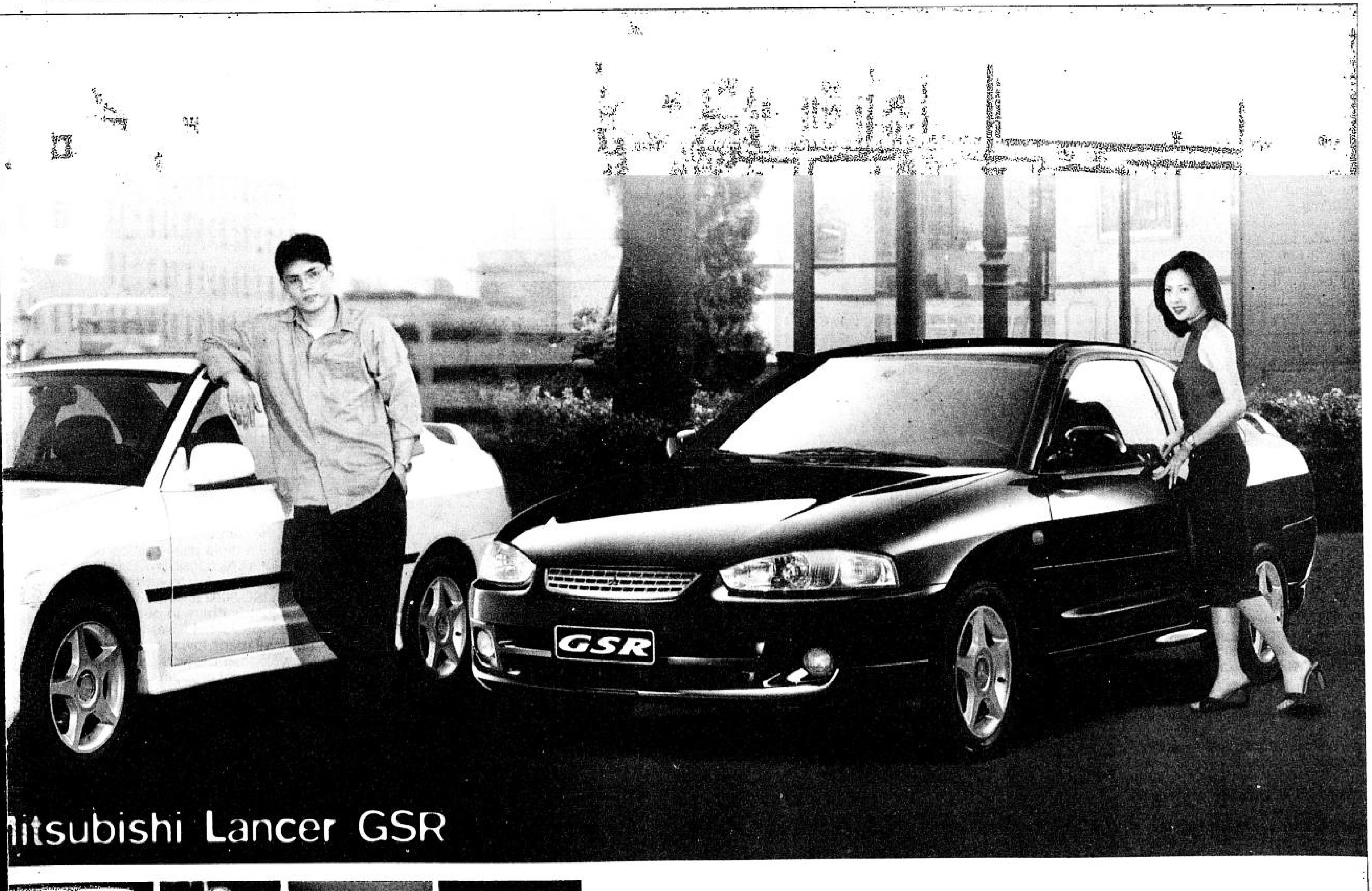

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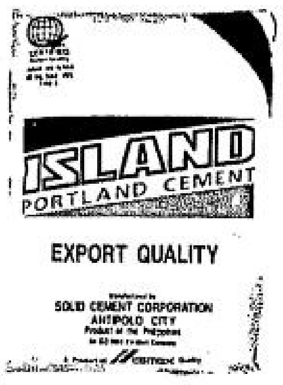
CEMEX PHILIPPINES RECEIVES ISO 14001 CERTIFICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



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Shown in photo during the awarding of the ISO 14001 certifications are (from left): CEMEX Asia President Fernando González, SGS President and General Manager David Horlock, APO Cement Plant Manager Noel Angeles, Department of Trade and Industry Acting Undersecretary and BOI Governor Ofelia Bulaong, Solid Cement Plant Manager Rogelio Leonardo, and CEMEX Philippines CEO Francisco Cué.

On October 16, 2000, Solid Cement Corporation ("Solid Cement") received its ISO 14001 for Environment Management Systems (EMS) - the final stamp of approval and recognition of the company's compliance to global environmental regulations and its continuing commitment to the environment. Just two months later, on December 22, 2000, APO Cement Corporation ("APO Cement") received its ISO 14001 certification.

Solid Cement, producer of Island Cement, and APO Cement, producer of APO Portland and APO Pozzolan, are members of the CEMEX Philippines Group of Companies ("CEMEX Philippines"), which is composed of Philippine companies affiliated with CEMEX S.A. de C.V. ("CEMEX").

One of the three largest cement companies in the world, CEMEX has operations in thirty (30) countries and trade relations with over sixty (60) nations worldwide. In 1997, it entered into an alliance with the Rizal Cement Group of Companies and has since been actively involved in the local cement manufacturing operations of Rizal Cement Co., Inc. and its subsidiary, Solid Cement. In 1999, an affiliate of CEMEX acquired a stake in APO Cement, one of the oldest cement manufacturing companies in the Visayas.

Since 1997, CEMEX endeavored to integrate its technological expertise and global standards into the local systems and processes, enabling its Philippine affiliates to compete in the world market. Barely three years after the entry of CEMEX in the Philippines, CEMEX Philippines earned its ISO 9002 Quality Management System Certificates, first in August 1999 for Solid Cement's plant in Antipolo and subsequently, in March 2000 for APO Cement's plant in Naga, Cebu.

In about a year's time, just after receiving the ISO 9002 - a feat by any global standard, both Solid Cement and APO cement plant were ISO 14001 certified. This was a source of pride for all the members of the CEMEX Philippines group.

"Everyone in CEMEX Philippines knew that these certifications are very critical in the Philippine operations being recognized as a world class, globally competitive part of CEMEX's worldwide network. The desire to be such drove them, inspired them, to constantly work towards being better and better, stronger and stronger. With the ISO 14001 accreditation process this determination was documented," says CEMEX Philip-pines CEO Francisco Cué.

"Since the very start, our company's Environmental Management System (EMS) is already based on the ISO 14001 standards," explains Solid Cement plant manager Rogelio Leonardo. "With an ISO 14001 based EMS, we have determined early in our operations the activities, services and products that have significant impacts, whether beneficial or adverse, to our environment. Today, we have established programs and procedures on how to control or minimize the adverse effects."

"We are working towards producing the cheapest, high quality and environment – friendly cement by using alternative fuels and raw materials. These processes preserve our environment and prolong the life of our available natural resources," Says Noel Angeles, plant manager of APO Cement's Cebu plant.

CEMEX Asia President Fernando Gonzalez further states, "We in CEMEX believe in sustainable development and in giving back to the people whose lives have been dedicated to making sure CEMEX becomes the world's most efficient and safest cement multinational. We have made pro-active moves with regard to employing cutting-edge technology in our operations, promoting environmental awareness as well as action, and utilizing only the best people, equipment, knowledge and know-how to ensure that ours is a company that transcends all our lifetimes."

WORKING "IN HARMONY WITH NATURE"

CEMEX's competitive advantage in the global market is its sophisticated information and production technology throughout its global network, as well as its superior operating practices and turnaround expertise in newly-acquired or integrated operations, giving them the distinction of being one of the most efficient, multinational cement producers in the world.

When CEMEX arrived in the Philippines in 1997, an Environ-mental Assessment of the Solid Cement's plant was immediately conducted. A similar assessment was done in the APO Cement's plant in 1999. Budget allocations for the improvement of the two companies' environmental performance immediately followed, a significant part of which went to renovation projects for the Solid Cement's plant as well as to training and awareness seminars for all CEMEX employees.

In support of the CEMEX's the global policy "In Harmony with Nature", the ISO 14001 and CEMEX's Eco-efficiency Program, Environmental Management Systems were established, first for Solid Cement in mid-1999 and a few months later, for APO Cement. The Environmental Officer of each company assumed the roles of Environmental Management Representatives (EMR) in their operations, and were subsequently designated as heads of the "EMS Working Group", assembled to develop and establish their areas' EMS.

The two EMRs, along with their deputies, were sent to a series of training workshops on the EMS.

"From these trainings," says Celestino de Leon, Solid Cement's EMR, "we have learned the benefits of implementing the EMS like the efficient use of natural resources which result in savings on power and water consumption, and a reduction of complaints from nearby commu-nities. Individual benefits to em-ployees were also recognized like improved working conditions as well as the fulfillment of responsibility in preserving the environment for future generations.

"When the system was set up, the idea of sustainable development became the main factor in making decisions and in doing everything inside the plant. That means conscious regard not only for the flora and fauna, but also for the employees and the residents of the area," adds Jose Ramiro Hilado, APO Cement's EMR.

Another significant aspect of the EMS is the training and awareness seminars, which the two companies provided not only to its employees, but also to its subcontractors and community leaders. This ensured wider dissemination and acceptance from the local communities and other companies and people whose lives and businesses are dependent on Solid Cement and APO Cement's operations.

"The process then became a two-way process. We have successfully involved in our environmental crusade our subcontractors and our neighboring communities. For a successful environmental plan to work out, it really needs the cooperation of many sectors of society," says Nicandro Fucoy CEMEX Philippines Vice President for Operations and Tech-nical.

To implement the EMS, both Solid Cement and APO Cement underwent physical renovation. Dust collectors of Solid Cement's plant, for example, have been updated to the jet-pulse system, one of the best technologies available today. Also modernized were the raw mill silo, coal mill, crusher and other vital equipment.

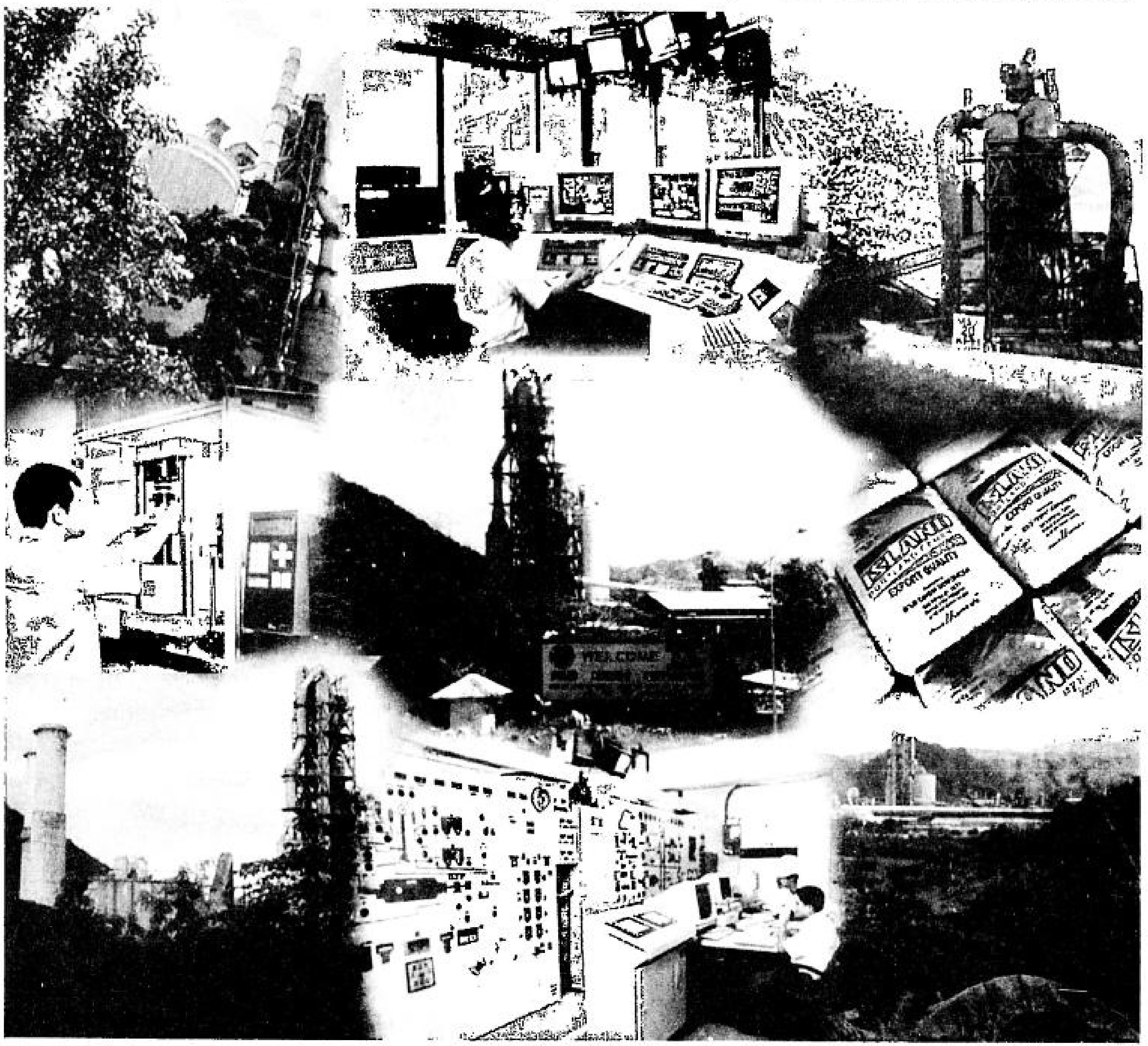
"Our employees are prouder than ever of themselves, their places of work and the company they work for. There is now a more deep-seeded belief in corporate responsibility." Cué goes on to say. **"Working towards achieving both ISO 9002 and 14001 status are not just feathers in our caps. They are physical seals of our commitment towards sustain-able development, towards providing the best cement products, and towards building a better world, that like the buildings, houses, infrastructure that use our cement, will stand the test of time."**

And, this is only the beginning.

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Through its operating affiliates and subsidiaries in four continents, CEMEX is engaged in the production, distribution, marketing and sale of cement. It is the world's leading producer of white cement and the largest trader of cement clinker. The company traces its beginnings to 1906, when the Cementos Hidalgo plant was founded in northern Mexico.

In less than a century, this Mexican rooted cement plant has grown to become one of the three (3) world's biggest cement conglomerates, with presence in more than 60 countries. It has market-leading operations in Mexico, the United States, Spain, Venezuela, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Panama, Dominican



The Solid Cement Plant in Tagbac, Antipolo City.

The APO Cement in Tina-an, Naga, Cebu.

Republic, Egypt, Colombia, and a significant presence in the Caribbean, and Indonesia.

CEMEX's global strategy is simple: it is primarily concentrated in high growth markets, where infrastructure demand is high and operating costs are relatively low. Its mission is to serve the global building needs of its customers and build value for its stakeholders by becoming the world's most efficient, profitable and safest multinational cement company.

In pursuing this mission, it recognizes the fact that it cannot stand alone and has to work closely with the local community. Thus CEMEX's, vision of "Working in Harmony with Nature" is supported by its affiliates and subsidiaries worldwide – first, by maintaining ecoefficient operations, and second, by supporting environment and social welfare programs through projects with local and international organizations.

In 1994, the company formally introduced the CEMEX Eco-efficiency Program (CEP) through-out its global network. This has since become an integral part of the company's technological optimi-zation and environmental protection programs.

CEP's overall goal is to maximize the efficient use of energy and natural resources, reduce costs and wastage, minimize the environ-mental impact of its operations while at the same time maximizing the economic return. CEMEX reported that in 1999 alone, the CEP programs generated more that $30 million in savings.

One of CEMEX's strength is its turnaround expertise in newly-acquired or integrated operations. When it ventured into the Philippines through Rizal Cement Group of Companies and APO Cement, CEMEX announced it is here for the long haul and CEMEX Philippines continues to reaffirm this commit-ment.

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Employees of Solid Cement, producer of ISLAND Cement, pose proudly with their ISO 14001 Certificate.

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice of loss S2 Lic#'s 16356 & 16357 of Drs. Liberiza Orseno & Ellen Aduan respectively Issued by Dangerous Drugs Board lost last Dec. 1999
PDI- March 28, 2001

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FAX (632) 815-2662 • 815-2660 • 817-3127
ZIP CODE 1226

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID PRINTING OF PEA ANNUAL REPORT

PEA is inviting printing firms to submit pre-qualification documents for the bidding of 2000 PEA Annual Report, which shall highlight PEA's accomplishments for the year.

Interested parties may acquire pre-qualification forms from the Office of the Chairman of the PBAC, 7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City starting **20 March 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00.

The duly accomplished pre-qualification documents must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. **29 March 2001** at the Office of the Chairman of the PBAC, 7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The PEA reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality or technicality and to award to the bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ARMINDA A. ALARAS**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--March 20, 25 & 28, 2001)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **Mr. Herbert A. Pinili** with last known address at #463 Rolex St., LBP Road Commonwealth Q.C., that his Dealership Agreement with AOWA has been terminated with cause and is no longer connected with AOWA Electronic Phils., Inc.

Any transactions on their behalf will not be honored effective March 21, 2001.

(PDI--March 28, 2001)

ILOCOS SUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Bigbiga, Santiago, Ilocos Sur

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

The Ilocos Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISECO) wishes to procure a 10 MVA 69/13.2 KV power transformer.

Interested eligible applicants must issue a letter of intent and request for Pre-Qualification Documents addressed to the PBAC Chairman signifying their wish to be prequalified. Only firms pre-qualified will be invited to bid.

THE PBAC

OBITUARIES

R.I.P.

ADELAIDA DE LA CRUZ HENZON

of Angeles City

Peacefully joined Our Lord and Her Blessed Mother on the feast of the Annunciation, March 26, 2001 at the age of 68.

Her loving husband **Gregorio**; children Donny and Weng, Fr. Josel, Remy and Cristy, Thel and Gerry, Mye and Walter, together with grandchildren, sisters, brothers, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the House of Many Mansions, El Cano Subdivision, McArthur Highway, Pulungbulu, Angeles City. Interment will be on Friday, March 30, 2001 at the La Pieta Memorial Park after the 9:30 AM Mass at the Holy Rosary Parish Church.

HILARIA MANZANO FORMOSO

of Aparri, Cagayan and BF Homes, Parañaque City

Died in the grace of our Lord on March 26, 2001 at the age of 91.

Her loving husband Jovito Sr.; children Cionie, Tere, Geling, Boy, Peping and Junior; children-in-law Ben, Toti and Tessie; grandchildren and great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Premier Chapel of the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, along Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 31, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, after the 1:00 PM Mass at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

TELESFORO "PURO" ISIDRO SR.

of Cataning, Balanga, Bataan

who joined his Creator on March 20, 2001

wish to convey our sincerest and heartfelt gratitude to those who in countless ways condoled, helped and comforted us in the hour of our deepest sorrow.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

From:

Lita and Arturo (†)
Agnes and Ernie
Manoling and Linda
Narding and Luisa
Peping and Evelyn
Charito and Eugene
Jun and Langling
Eddie and Sharon
Victor and Wena

Nenita Geralde de Leon

September 11, 1926 - March 26, 2001, 74 years old
Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord.

Her bereaved children Al and Malou de Leon, Baby and Ding Macaranas, Zenaida C. de Leon, Thelma and Oscar Muñoz, Boy and Chuchay de Leon, Rosita C. de Leon, Oscar C. de Leon, Pete and Tonette de Leon, Tess and Reynaldo Rivera, Ningning and Lonie Casacop; grandchildren Apple, Cherry, Peaches, Chico, Ba, Lloyd, Lj de Leon; Leah, Louie, Lexter, Lyss, Cj Macaranas; Danielle de la Dingco; Abe Muñoz, Paul, Philip, Patrick, Pewee de Leon; Jomar, Joan, JM de Leon and Badette Casacop; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, along Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City on April 1, 2001 (Sunday) after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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Bedans watch People at Work 'live'

PaW editor Regina Galang Reyes (from left), columnist Moje Ramos Aquino, the author Leonor and Inquirer HRD head Chito San Mateo. Standing is SBC Prefect of Students, Dr. Teresita Pedrajas.

SAN Beda freshmen prepare for their future.

RICKY Garcia, SBC guidance counselor

TITA Datu Puangco, Ancilla president

BY ROCHE LEONOR

(The People at Work editorial team went "live" last week when they shared their expertise on career planning and development with college students during San Beda College's Career Week. This is the first in a series of seminars that will bring People at Work writers and HR experts "live" to schools and offices, as part of People at Work's celebration of its first year of publication.

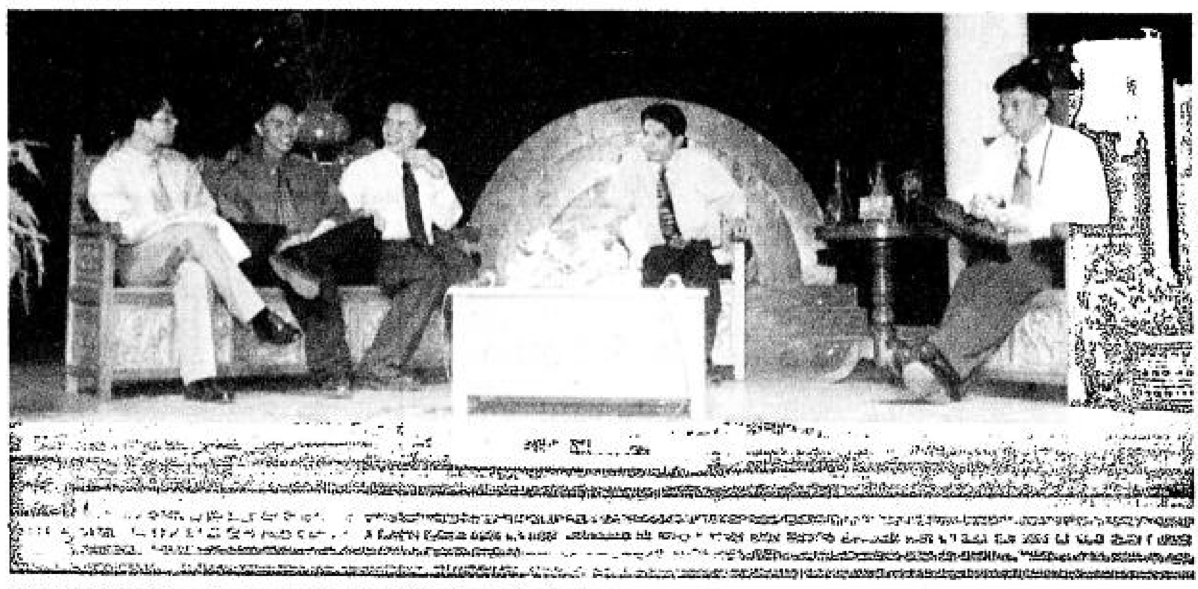
The team was composed of Tita Datu Puangco, writer for "Advice for Anxious People at Work" and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc; Moje Ramos Aquino, "Recipes for Learning" columnist and president of Paradigms and Paradoxes Consultants; Ernie Cecilia, writer for "Skills Toolbox" and former president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines; Josie Santamaria, writer for career development and president of Career Systems; and Regina Galang Reyes, People at Work editor and HR consultant.- Ed.)

TO MOTIVATE students to reach their full potential, the People at Work editorial team talked to students of San Beda College last week to share their expertise on "How to Plan Your Career Even Before Getting a Job."

The symposium tackled personal visioning, self-analysis, career options, entrepreneurship, and how to select great companies to work for. It was sponsored by the San Beda Office of the College Guidance and Services. The symposium was one of the opening activities of SBC's Career Week.

SBC Prefect of Students Dr. Teresita Pedrajas welcomed the students to the symposium. In her talk, she emphasized that in order to achieve one's goals, a person must have an idea of what he would like to be one day. She encouraged the students to see beyond the present reality and invent what does not yet exist as this will serve as a motivating force to achieve their dreams.

ABBOT Lopez Hall is jampacked with students, intently listening to the discussion.


PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO AND RICKY GARCIA

SELECTED San Beda students talk about their dream careers.

Selected San Beda students then talked about their dream careers. Carl Uvas, Lance Warren, Christian Manuel, Manuel Soza, Ronald Aguire and Rommel Rico expressed their concerns, worries and hopes for the future.

True north

Tita Datu Puangco, president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting Inc., talked about the importance of having a personal vision. Puangco said that a person must first have a clear picture of what he wants out of life. He must learn how to visualize and imagine what kind of things he wants and from there, his quest for fulfillment will follow. To emphasize her point, she asked the audience to close their eyes and point to the north. As expected, many in the audience didn't have a clear idea of where the north is. Puangco reiterated that having a personal vision, or finding the "true north," is a motivating force that will help an individual succeed as a professional.

Moje Ramos Aquino, Paradigms and Paradoxes Consultants president, spoke on self-analysis as a basis for determining one's personal vision and career. Aquino said that while they are still studying, they should make it a habit to regularly do a self-evaluation. A person must first know what he really is and wants. She advised the students to list down their strengths and weaknesses, their favorite people, their preferred work places and environment, their values and their transferable skills to find out which fields they would most likely excel in. She further added that the things a person surrounds himself with are a clear reflection of who he is. "The posters in your room say something about who you are," said Aquino. "If you have a poster of Albert Einstein, you're probably more inclined to the sciences."

Value

Ernie Cecilia, former president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines, advised the students on how to select great companies to work for. Cecilia emphasized that job seekers should look for value in the companies they want to work for, such as vision, ability to pay, long-term orientation, understanding of people and excellence. He said that unlike most people, one can land a job in a company of his own choice. Citing himself as an example, Cecilia said, "I have been able to work for three of the best companies in the country and it's not by chance."

Josie Santamaria, Career Systems president, discussed career options. Students were given advice on what career paths they can take. She said that graduates could choose to become employees, to exercise their own profession, or to go into business.

Generation Y

Regina Galang Reyes, People at Work editor, discussed entrepreneurship. She pointed out that the students of today belong to Generation Y. She said that since most Generation Y people don't like having bosses breathing down their necks, they are most likely to become entrepreneurs. Reyes gave a short test to determine whether or not an individual has the potential to become an entrepreneur. She said that to be a successful entrepreneur, one has to have the following characteristics: strong drive, creative thinking ability, competence in human relations, good communication skills and sufficient technical business knowledge. These traits, combined with proper motivation and goal setting, will increase one's chances of success.

According to Ricky Garcia, SBC guidance counselor, the symposium answered the need of students for salient career information and opportunities and encouraged them to have confidence to improve personal effectiveness and success.

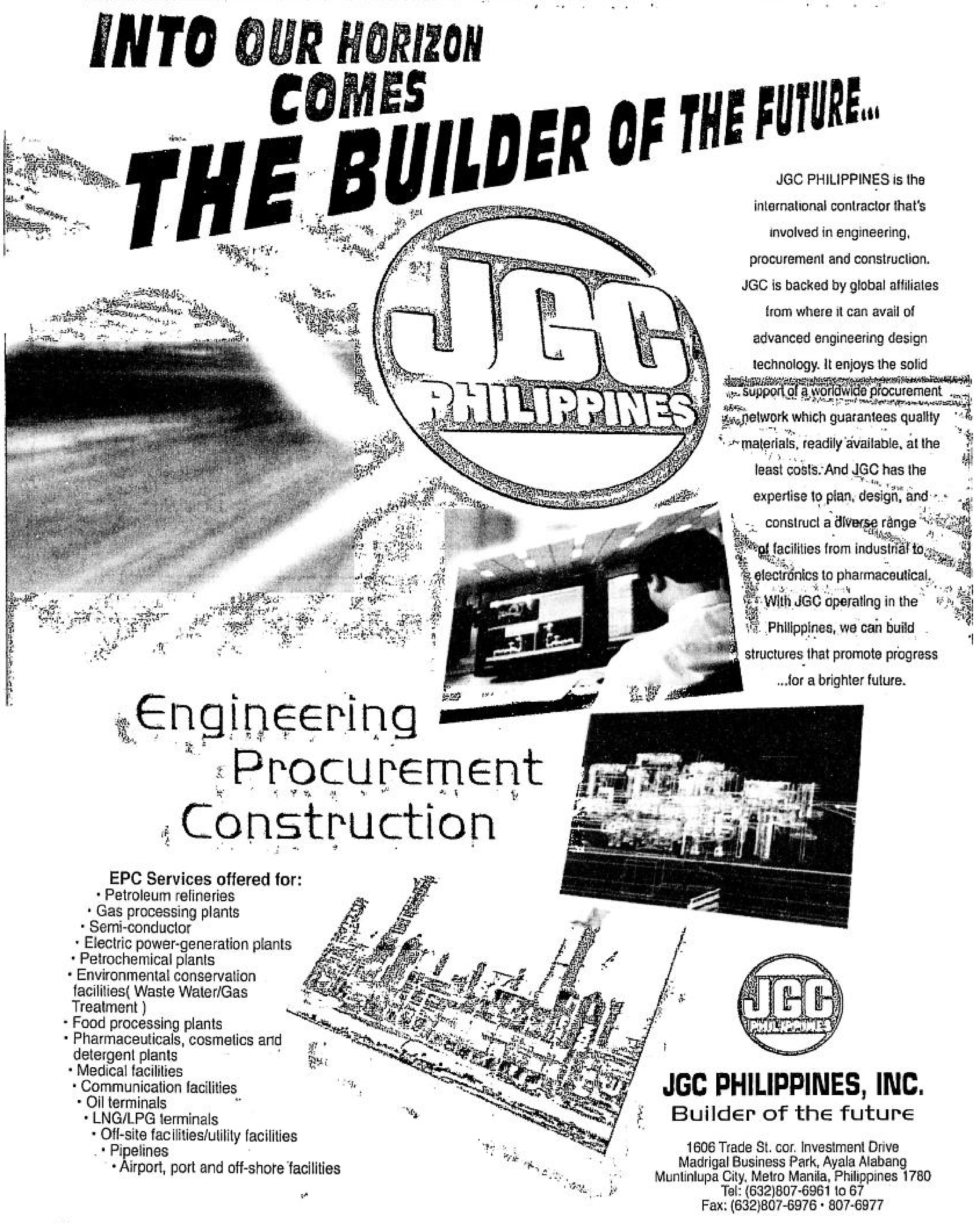
(For more details on People at Work seminars, email peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph *or call 897-8808 local 554.)*

JOSIE Santamaria, Career Systems president

ERNIE Cecilia dances to the tune of "Whatever We Imagine"

ALL ears to the discussion

ALL smiles for Ingram's music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Employee complains of sexual harassment

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM an operator in an electronics company. I am 24 years old and single. My supervisor, who is a married man with two children, has been giving me gifts that I have consistently refused. He also shows that I am his favorite before all the other operators.

Knowing that he is a married person, I try to avoid being alone with him. At the same time, I have to be kind to him because he has the power to remove me from work. At this time, I am the only support of my mother and a younger brother. I cannot afford to lose my job. Recently, he has been suggesting that we go out on a date. I told him I am sorry but I have to help at home after work. I am feeling very uncomfortable at work. There are times when I feel like absenting myself. Is this what they call sexual harassment? Please advise me what to do.

Puzzled operator

You are asking whether the actions of your supervisor constitute sexual harassment. What are you to do given your specific circumstances? We applaud your consistent refusal to entertain your supervisor's hints and advances. You are standing pat on protecting yourself and clearly showing your supervisor that his actions are unwanted. Judge for yourself if what you are experiencing meets the criteria of sexual harassment. Definitely sexual harassment is a crime. Let me summarize what the law says.

Unlawful

Sexual harassment is a crime. Republic Act No. 7877 declares sexual harassment unlawful in the employment, education or training environment and for other purposes. The declaration of policy reads that the " State shall value the dignity of every individual, enhance the development of human resources, guarantee full respect for human rights and uphold the dignity of workers, employees, applicants for employment..."

The Department of Labor and Employment has an advisory advising all employers or heads of offices of the passage of Republic Act No.7877 also known as the " Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995." It took effect on March 5,1995. In fact, it is the duty of your employer to provide the procedures for the resolution, settlement or prosecution of acts of sexual harassment.

Definition

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It also notes that this occurs when submission to such conduct is made a condition for an individual's employment. Or that submission or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting the individual. Or such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

Forms of sexual harassment include the following but not limited to: verbal harassment such as derogatory comments, jokes or slurs; physical harassment such as unnecessary or offensive touching or impeding or blocking movements and visual harassment such as derogatory or offensive posters, cards, calendars, cartoons, graffiti, drawings or gestures.

Filing a complaint

Based on the foregoing statements, it is clear that you may have a basis for filing a complaint. Ideally, you should report this to your supervisor. But since he is the person in question, you should report his behavior immediately to the next higher level supervisor. If your complaint is not addressed at this level, you can go see your human resource manager. The human resource manager can refer your complaint to a committee on decorum and investigation of sexual harassment cases that your employer is duty bound to create.

Try to find out if your company has a sexual harassment resolution process, so you are guided accordingly. Most companies may require that the complaint be done in writing, signed and sworn to by the complainant. It must contain specifics of the charge and a brief statement of relevant and material facts.

Be mentally, physically and emotionally prepared to go through a process. You may want to have people around you who can provide you support during the period so that you don't feel vulnerable or intimidated.

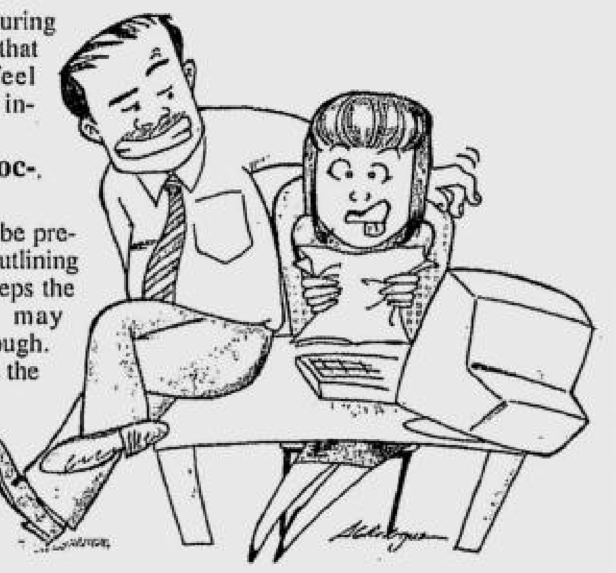


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Steps in process

For you to be prepared, we are outlining some of the steps the complainant may have to go through. First would be the filing of the written complaint. Then, the company may decide to determine the need for a preventive suspension if there is substantial ground for the complaint. Then, the respondent receives and responds to the complaint. Afterwards, the complainant files a reply to the respondent. A hearing with both parties is then scheduled and then a report or recommendation is submitted to the committee. Then, the decision is executed or a motion for reconsideration is filed.

We hope that you muster the courage to go for your rights. This heroic act will not only protect you but will deter similar behavior from other people in the company in the future. There is of course the easy way out which is simply resigning and applying with another company. But as you said, you need the job. And at this time when the US is at a recession and electronic companies may be cutting jobs, this may not be the best alternative. Whatever your decision, we will remember you in our prayers.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Comments, feedback or requests for advice may sent through email to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax at 892-2902.)*

Shatter our myths on time

RECIPES for LEARNING

By *Moje Ramos-Aquino*

HOW have you been? Did you enjoy your week and month just passed? What was significant or memorable about them? What happened to you? What did you do? Did you use your time to move your life plans? Or would you rather just forget about yesterday, last week and last month? Or did time pass you by without you noticing? Ahhhhh, how time flies so quickly when you are busy and happy, but oh so slowly, when you are idle and sad, doesn't it?

We shall tackle our fourth workshop in this column, which we will call Time Management. Get ready with your stock learning materials such as reflection, notes and exercise notebook, pen or pencil, crayolas or colored pens or pencils. Get together with your learning buddy or buddies by reviewing your own expectations from this workshop and norms or rules for your behavior that you will follow for the duration in order for you to get the most from this workshop.

Great leveler

First, let's talk about some myths.

Is time a great leveler? Technically, like everybody else, you have a full 60 seconds per minute, 60 minutes per hour, 24 hours per day, seven days per week, four to five weeks per month, 12 months per year. No more, no less, regardless of your age, size, economic and financial condition, educational background, genetic origin, address, achievements, etc. However, in reality, some people have more time than others do because they know how to use time to their advantage. American journalist, author and wit Alexander Woolcott has this to say: "Many of us spend half our time wishing for things we could have if we didn't spend half our time wishing." The difference between a happy and free person and the others is not the lack of money or competency, or opportunity, or time, but rather, a lack of will to use time and competency and opportunity.

The second myth is that it is a waste of time to spend time sitting on your desk thinking and planning what to do. In reality, thinking and planning will allow you to anticipate what might happen and give you the opportunity to proact, to write your script, to determine how best to act and to preempt some probable problems from happening. Aristotle advised that a thing well begun is half done.

Big

The third myth is that it takes time to really accomplish something big. Who says you want big over significant or big over enjoyable or big over creative? Abraham Lincoln positively mused that the best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time. Some good things took really a long time to build or make such as the pyramids, the Parthenon, the painting of the Last Supper, the MRT, and many others. However, if you will read the stories about their making, there are so many poignant stories that eventually led to their accomplishment. These stories that happened within an hour or days are equally significant to the end results. For example, I am sure you have read or heard about the story of the man who posed both as Jesus and Judas in the Last Supper. Another example is the MRT Line 3. Everyday, for the past year or so now, I see the MRT Line 3 taking a more distinct shape everyday from street diggings along R. Magsaysay Boulevard to those imposing overhead train tracks. Every single bit of cement, metal and other materials are put together to eventually allow Manileños to be more mobile and free. Very soon trains will be running on them but for now, I am content to marvel at the ways man uses science and technology to man's benefit. Fantastic!

Work smarter

To manage your time wisely means you need to work hard and harder and hardest. Myth #4: *Sayang ang oras, kailangang magtrabaho.* Working harder does not mean that you are accomplishing more or that your results are better. Spending hours and hours on a job assignment because you refuse to throw away old habits and to learn new skills is not at all wise. Pounding on that old calculator will not make you more competent and your ledger more accurate than when you use the computer and some readily available software.

Myth #5 is that you need not spend so much time with your family for as long as you spend "quality" time with them. In business, you know that quality standards are set by the user or customer and not by the service giver. It's the same with your family. Your family is also your customer. Quality time means enough time for you to fill in their needs for attention, love, play, learning and others. For me, family time is never compromised nor negotiated. The customer is always right, *di ba*? Don't you always say that you are working hard for your family? Who is it who said that everybody in his/her deathbed never thought about wishing to have spent more time in the office? A dying person's thoughts are always about wishing he/she had spent more time with his/ her family. It is not late in the day yet. Pope John Paul II said it best: "To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others."

Life

Myth #6: Time is life and life is time. Do you work in order to live or do you live to do work? While work is necessary and is worthwhile to pursue, leisure has its own purpose, which is that of self-renewal and revitalization. There must be a balance between work and play, as you know too well. Not to mention the urgent and important need for time to love, time to make love, time to worship, time to reflect, time to laugh and cry, time to rest, time to run, time to learn, time to care, time to heal. Time is life and life is using time to perfect oneself. Albert Einstein has this to say, "He who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe is as good as dead; his eyes are closed."

Myth #7: To get things done best and fastest, you yourself must do it. This is a common cop-out among supervisors and managers and parents. This smacks of lack of trust for others coming from lack of trust for self. This is pure and simple insecurity. Remember that leadership is getting someone else to do something you want done.

Taking it easy

Myth #8: Take it easy; anyway there is time for everything and everything has its own time. Yes and no. John F. Kennedy said, "the best time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining." Dwight D. Eisenhower, likewise said, "Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him."

Myth #9: I have no time. Great basketball coach John Wooden led his teams at the University of California at Los Angeles to a record ten NCAA championships and one of his coaching philosophy is "do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do." Franklin D. Roosevelt was also quoted as saying, "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today."

Is there another myth that you know of? Lend me your time and tell me more myths about time that you know of. Write us by snail mail or email. Myths are beliefs that have no factual or sound basis. They are mostly alibis. Time is real yet you can't hold it, smell it, or taste it. Time is here but you can't see it or hear it. Time is all around us but you can't feel it. That is why we make myths about time. Those who cling to these myths as truths are those with External Locus of Control (E-Loc). It is convenient for them to blame time for their inadequacies and failures

Controlling time

So what or who controls your time? Marie Henry Beyle, French novelist, critic and biographer, laments that life is too short, and the time we waste in yawning can never be regained. American humorist Henry Wheeler Shaw said about time: "Time is money and many people pay their debts with it." Former president Erap Estrada and his family will soon know the truth about this. I wonder how they will defend themselves against the charges thrown at them at the Ombudsman. As we keep our senses glued to these Erap cases, every Wednesday *naman* stick with PaW and learn how to make your dreams come true by managing your time well.

ASTD 2001 Updates: Walt Disney World, Epcot Center, Seaworld Orlando, Universal Studios, Wet & Wild are not just side attractions to attending the ASTD International Conference and Exhibition this June 2 to 7 in Orlando, Florida. They are must-see places. They offer lessons on all aspects of business and service. They mirror the meticulous way that Corporate America conducts their business. Everyday, hundreds of thousands, even millions, visit these famous playgrounds yet everywhere and anytime you look, you see employees happily, efficiently, effectively, creatively, and more importantly, do their job as if you are the one and only and the most important person in the whole world. Theirs are old facilities yet they look new, clean, spic and span always. Their attention to details matches equally their clear view of their vision, mission and goals. They are customer-focused all the time. Their own employees are one of their valued customers. To get to ASTD 2001 and Disneyworld, please call Paradigms & Paradoxes Consultants, the official Philippine delegation organizer. Jenny and Adrian will enjoy answering your inquiries at telephone no. 715-9332.

(Email feedback to moje.ramos@aquino.ZZN.com*)*

Write power resumés ...

(From page B16)

A powerful resumé has a lot of "punch." Use action words, just like an advertising copywriter does to sell a product. Through your resumé, you are selling yourself. The customers are the readers of your resumé, including those who will decide to hire you or not.

Start with action words that the reader can immediately identify with and attach some value to immediately. Then, lead the reader of your resumé through appropriate headings and bullets that start with action and catchy, not boring, words.

Go easy with adjectives but be very generous with verbs. Avoid vague statements such as "had exposure to." Avoid long statements and use strong key words that help convey your abilities and accomplishments. Say "promoted as supervisor in 1998" instead of "After three years, I was promoted to supervise the unit in 1998."

Never invent false stories about yourself or your achievements. Instead, look for the most appealing way to highlight what you have done in your career.

Your education and training tell the reader whether or not you have the needed preparation for the job. List down in reverse order all the degrees you have received but limit this down to your high school diploma. Enumerate the inclusive years, degrees and schools attended. You may highlight scholastic honors.

After the formal courses, enumerate the most important and relevant, seminars attended. Do not include the seminar on photography or hair culture if you are applying for a secretary's job in the oil industry.

Here is a suggested outline of your one-page resumé:

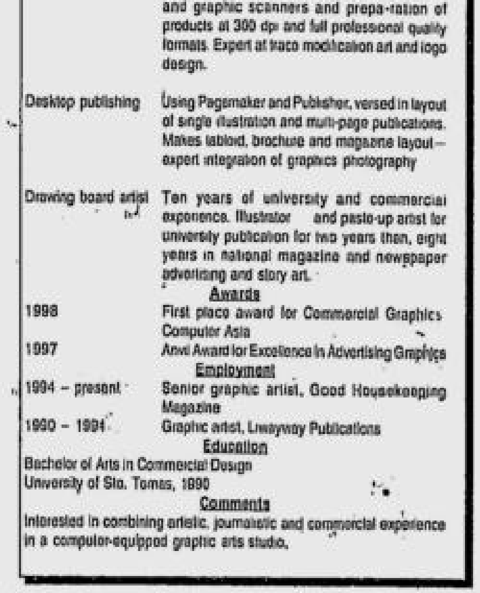
- heading
- overview and job objective
- skills and competencies
- work experience and accomplishments
- education and training
- comments (optional)

You can include professional and civic organizations under "Comments" or highlight them separately in a section after "Education and Training." If not asked in the ads, you may skip "References" but make them available during the interview.

It pays to make your resumé reader-friendly or it might end up in the trash can. As one human resources manager confessed, "I keep seeing resumés that are little more than buckets into which a lot of data had been dumped in the apparent belief that I will fill in the gaps, synthesize diverse information, connect the dots, and tell you what kind of product you are. I have no incentive to do this, given the number of knights eager to enter the lists. It is not my job to make sense out of your life!"

So, you see that unless you can make sense with your resumé, you don't have a Chinaman's chance of getting called for an interview, much less landing a good job.

(I have provided a sample of each type of resumé with this article. This article is also an excerpt from my book, "How to get a job," available at National Book Store and Bookmark.)



Johnny dela Cruz
456 Taft Ave Manila
0917-4460321

Competencies

Computer graphics — Graphics capabilities using Aldus Freehand on the Macintosh II. Experienced in using both text and graphic scanners and preparation of products at 300 dpi and full professional quality formats. Expert at trace modification art and logo design.

Desktop publishing — Using Pagemaker and Publisher, versed in layout of single illustration and multi-page publications. Makes tabloid, brochure and magazine layout—expert integration of graphics photography

Drawing board artist — Ten years of university and commercial experience. Illustrator and paste-up artist for university publication for two years then, eight years in national magazine and newspaper advertising and story art.

Awards

1998 — First place award for Commercial Graphics Computer Asia

1997 — Anvil Award for Excellence in Advertising Graphics

Employment

1994 – present — Senior graphic artist, Good Housekeeping Magazine

1990 – 1994 — Graphic artist, Liwayway Publications

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Commercial Design
University of Sto. Tomas, 1990

Comments

Interested in combining artistic, journalistic and commercial experience in a computer-equipped graphic arts studio.

Competency cluster resumé sample

Marketing guy makes unique service idea work

BY CECILE G. GARCIA

WHAT does a young marketing guy do after graduating from AIM? He would naturally try out a unique venture. This is precisely what Raffy David did after getting his master's degree in business and marketing from AIM in May last year.

Raffy and two of his friends launched Pilipinas Teleserv, Inc. in June 2000, following Raffy's graduation from AIM the preceding month. Teleserv, a moniker conceived by him, is basically a call center, which facilitates government service through the use of sophisticated communications systems. With pals Jun and Jeffrey as co-owners and incorporators, Raffy is the company's director for marketing and quality assurance, bringing to it his expertise in business and marketing acquired from his work experience and studies at AIM. "I handle marketing and I also see to it that operations run smoothly," affirms the young man.

PHOTO BY VAL HANDUMON

RAFFY David

Thesis

Sometime last year, Raffy and bosom buddies Jun Yupitun and Jeffrey Villanueva hit upon an innovative idea. Jun, 30, is an electronics and communications engineer, while Jeffrey, also 28, is a web programmer and designer with a background in finance. Like Raffy, both had gone to La Salle.

Midway through his thesis on country clubs, recounts Raffy, he changed his mind. "My two friends and I had been talking about this unique venture, a business idea. I though I'd write a thesis on that," Raffy avers, pointing out that he was able to finish the theses in two weeks. In effect, Teleserv, the subject of Raffy's thesis, the trio's brainchild and a bold undertaking, came after the fact. "I wanted to document and legitimize it," volunteers Raffy.

CAREER Tales

Call center

"A call center is about managing people," says Raffy. Modesty aside, he remarks, he is pretty good at this, having learned to deal with all kinds of people when he was in sales. "PR is required in handling 100 employees, plus customers and business partners." Of course, each of the three has his own brand of leadership, his own discipline. "The thing I try to do as director for quality assurance is to make it work together, to make it jell," explains Raffy. For without unity or harmony, it could all fall apart.

Raffy deals with other companies Teleserv works with such as LBC and Aboitiz, courier services they use in the business, and Metrobank, their payment facilitator partner. It is his job too to meet with ad agencies and graphic artists for promotions and media requirements. "I'm mostly out of the office. I visit top level executives or their deputies," says Raffy, who stresses that at this point, his mission is simple—to promote Teleserve.

Teleserv's primary target, Raffy points out, is to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of government agencies at no cost to them. "There is a big gap between the quality of service delivered by these agencies and what the public expects of them," he says. "We aim to bridge or close that gap."

Being young has its drawbacks. So says Raffy, who at 28, sometimes finds youth a hindrance. "Often in my career, even people who have known me refuse to take me seriously," he says.

But they'd better because Raffy is hell-bent on proving them wrong and so far, he has succeeded. So far, Raffy has managed to turn his liability into an asset. How? "You don't talk about what you can do. You go ahead and do it. In the same way, you don't ask for or demand respect. You try to earn it." He has apparently accomplished both.

Extensive experience

A graduate of business from La Salle, his extensive work experience could put some of us to shame. Aside from being a professor at the University of Asia and the Pacific (formerly CRC), Raffy is also a consultant for Procter and Gamble Asia. He had worked in the auto industry in the past and had been a consultant for Ford and Chrysler. At one time, he was Volvo's top marketing man.

According to Raffy, he still gets frustrated when people don't respond to him readily and seem to have little faith in him, just because he's young. He still considers this his biggest challenge. "I know I need to project an image they can take me seriously despite my boyish looks. I need to make them see they can trust me with their business, that I can deliver," he remarks.

On the go

Raffy adds that he would like to retire at 40.This is, of course, a long way off. In the meantime, he loves the life of a young man on the go, a yuppie. Raffy, by the way, is a sports buff, a lover of golf, which is no surprise because he belongs to a family of serious golfers. "I have a handicap of 12 and this is considered respectable," he says. "But it's the worst of the lot in my family, who all have single-digit handicaps." He claims golf was able to temper him and it also taught him to understand himself better.

Direct and unspoken, Raffy always says what he means and vice versa. "I'm very open about my feelings. I verbalize them."

Right now, he feels quite happy with the way his career is going. "I know I'm able to touch people's lives and I'm making a difference," he says. With this new venture, Teleserv, Raffy believes his career can only grow and get better.

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Write power resumés that sell your good image

(Part II)

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

BY ERNIE O. CECILIA

YOU can write a resumé focusing on selling your competencies. When writing a competency cluster resumé, highlight up front the competencies that you have mastered in your career. If you are a new graduate and have no actual work experience, you can describe your skills and competencies acquired while in school—academic performance, co-curricular activities, projects you made, organizations you joined and your actual role or contributions, etc. Be specific with names of projects, companies and persons you worked with so that you will appear credible.

Play up your skills by citing specific critical incidents, such as "chaired the three-day national sales convention in February 2001, with 5 foreign speakers, 3 local marketing experts and 500 company executives and sales force."

You can express your business acumen by stating that you "increased sales of baby products line by 25 percent, higher than industry average of 15 percent."

It is advisable to know the details of the job you are applying for. This will come in handy when you write a section on "Abilities or Competencies." Here you should reflect clearly what you could do, rather than what you have done.

Abilities

When you write about your education, training and experiences, do it in a way that shows the readers that you have the abilities required to do a good job. Do not just enumerate them. Write them in terms of abilities that can match the requirements of the job.

You may wish to have another section on "Achievements" or "Accomplishments." Here you can cite your major contributions to the job and the company, as well as the awards, citations, commendations or recognition received. Limit your listing of achievements to those that are relevant to the job you are applying for. Do not cite your award for being "Best Hairdresser" if you are applying for a sales position in the heavy-equipment industry.

Again, the idea is to help the reader of your resume make a match between you and the job.

WRITE/B15

Juan dela Cruz
123 Congressional Road, Quezon City
0917-7654321 or 0918-9996633

Overview and Job Objective
Technical writer, with formal education and training in journalism, technical writing and computer technology, seeks editorial opportunity with a national newspaper or magazine.

Experience
January 1998 – present, Technical Writer
Brainpower Computers, Inc., Quezon City

Prepares technical manuals on the use of computer software products.
Interviews programmers and systems engineers to identify program features.
Attends workshops and gathers feedback on manuals and products.

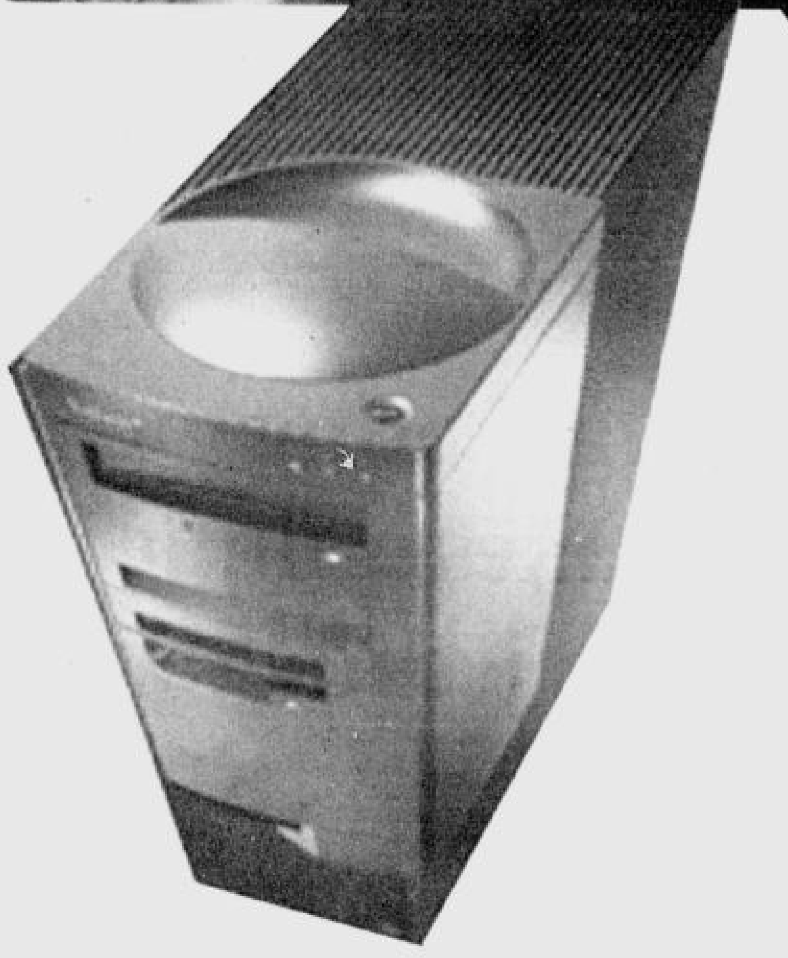
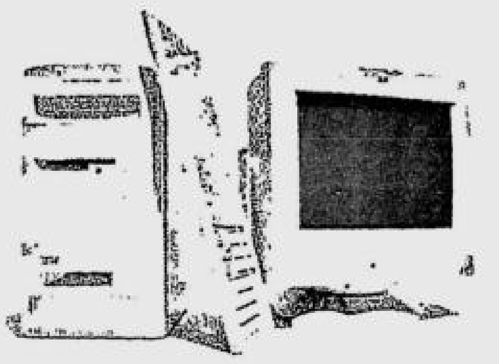
July 1994 – Dec. 1997, Customer Service Technician
Brainwaves Software Company, Manila

Service adviser for users of software products, including word-processing, spreadsheet, graphic presentation and database programs.
Maintained records and assisted technical writers revise manuals.

Education
Bachelor of Information Technology
College of St. Benilde, DLSU, 1996

Bachelor of Science in Journalism
University of the Philippines, 1993

Work history resumé sample

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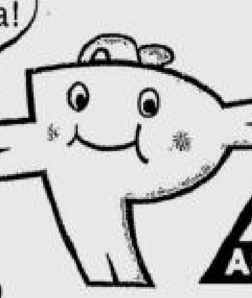

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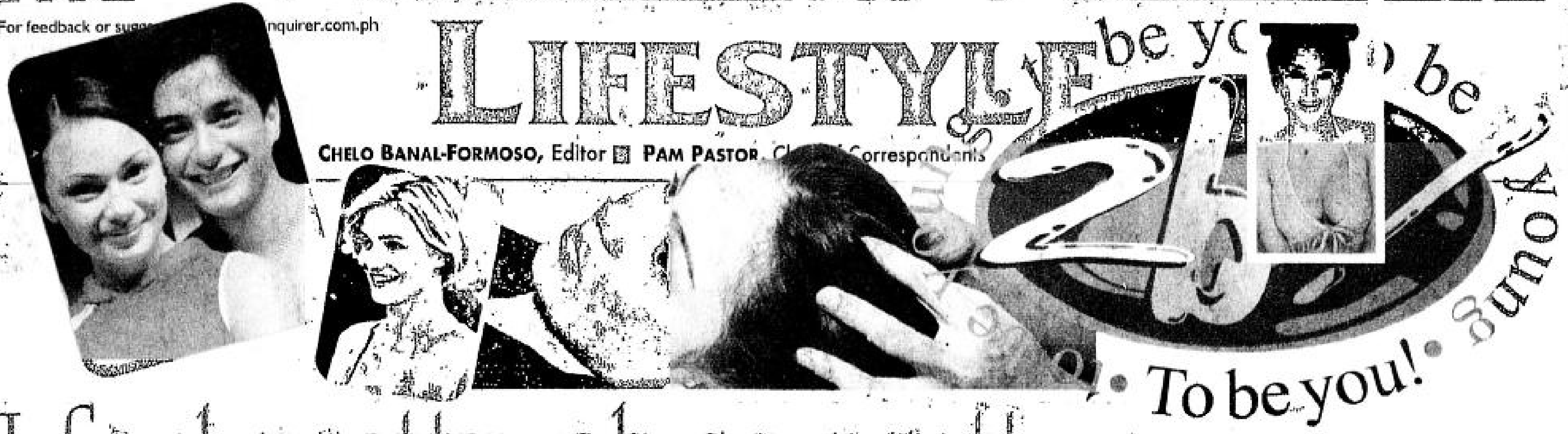
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I feel pretty, oh so pretty

Vanity of vanities! Even men are into prettifying! 2bU! surveys the world of pamper and pulchritude with this special beauty issue

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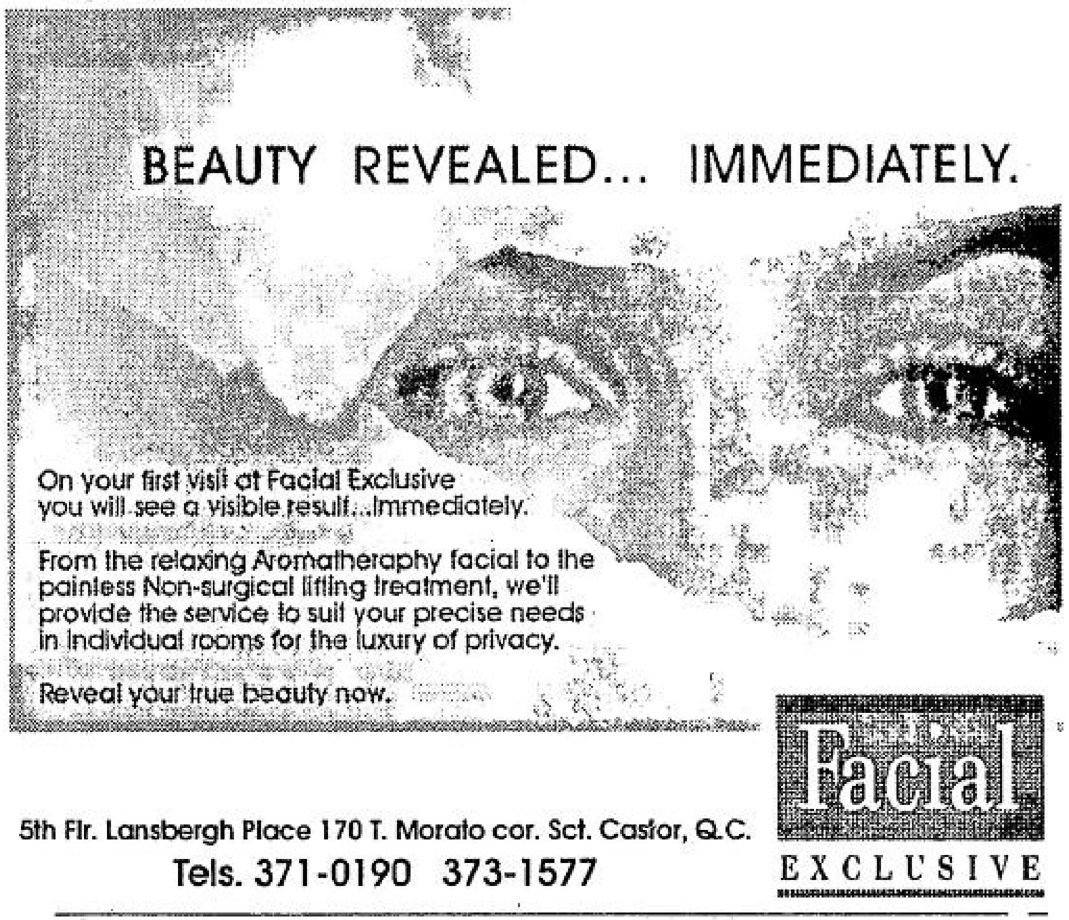
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Travel Notebook

by Maurice Arcache

Western Europe: Where life is beautiful

Hello, *dahlings*! Are you feeling the summer heat and looking for that perfect cool vacation getaway? Look no further than Western Europe where the hills are alive with the sound of music, where time stands still, and where life is, simply, beautiful.

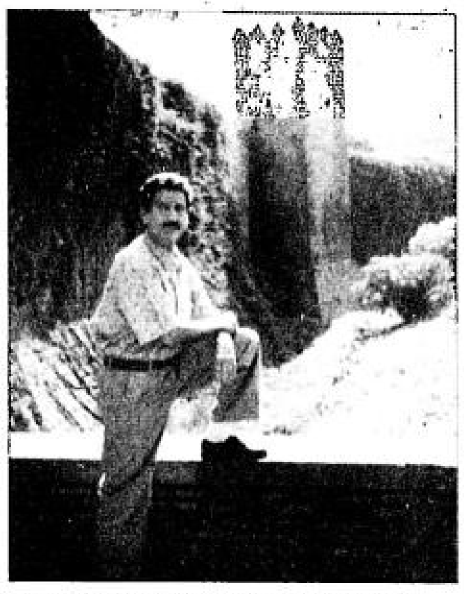
Take *moi* word for it, *palanggas*, Western Europe is *tres* wonderful! Or you can go ask the incomparable British actress Julie Andrews whose personal list of "my favorite things" would no doubt include many things Austrian. Or Italian actor-director Roberto Benigni whose movie declaration of "Life Is Beautiful" gave him Oscar glory two years back.

Racial diversity, *dahlings*, is just one of the many intoxicating pleasures of Western Europe. Cultural richness is another. There are the colorful structures of Spain and Portugal, the mythology-soaked art of Greece, and the historicity of Germany, to name a few.

The sights are just as spectacularly varied, *palanggas*, from the overwhelming opulence of the Bulgarian capital to the avant-garde designs of France to the wintry snow-capped mountain peaks of Switzerland.

Western Europe also has a world of gastronomic pleasures you can feast on, *dahlings*. Rich Swiss chocolates, flavorful Belgian waffles, hot German sausages, fine Danish cookies, and more.

And now for the good news! This is the best time for you to have a virtual taste of Western Europe, that is if you have a Citibank credit card like I do, *palanggas* Get the best travel deals from Citibank's promotion partners - 13 travel agencies, 4 airlines and one cruise line. The travel packages they are offering are superbly attractive. Unbelievably low, low price tags, and when you use your Citibank credit card you don't pay any surcharge - nil, nada, zero!



Moi in one of the ruins of a 16th century castle outside of Brussels, in Belgium.

That's not all, *dahlings*. Citibank cardholders also have the option to use the PayLite Installment Plan for flexibility in their travel payments. PayLite makes European travel possible on an Asian budget. Go ahead and call 995-9999 for more details.

Citibank is likewise throwing in an entire caboodle of perks - double rewards points on transactions made with participating travel agencies and free travel insurance protection.

Gold cardholders can lap it up at the Northwest Lounge at NAIA and in 21 airport locations worldwide where they and one companion have free access, plus they get double rewards points for overseas transactions.

So, *dahlings*, visit Western Europe and live the beautiful life this summer! For an even more beautiful life, travel in style with Citibank! *Bon voyage!*

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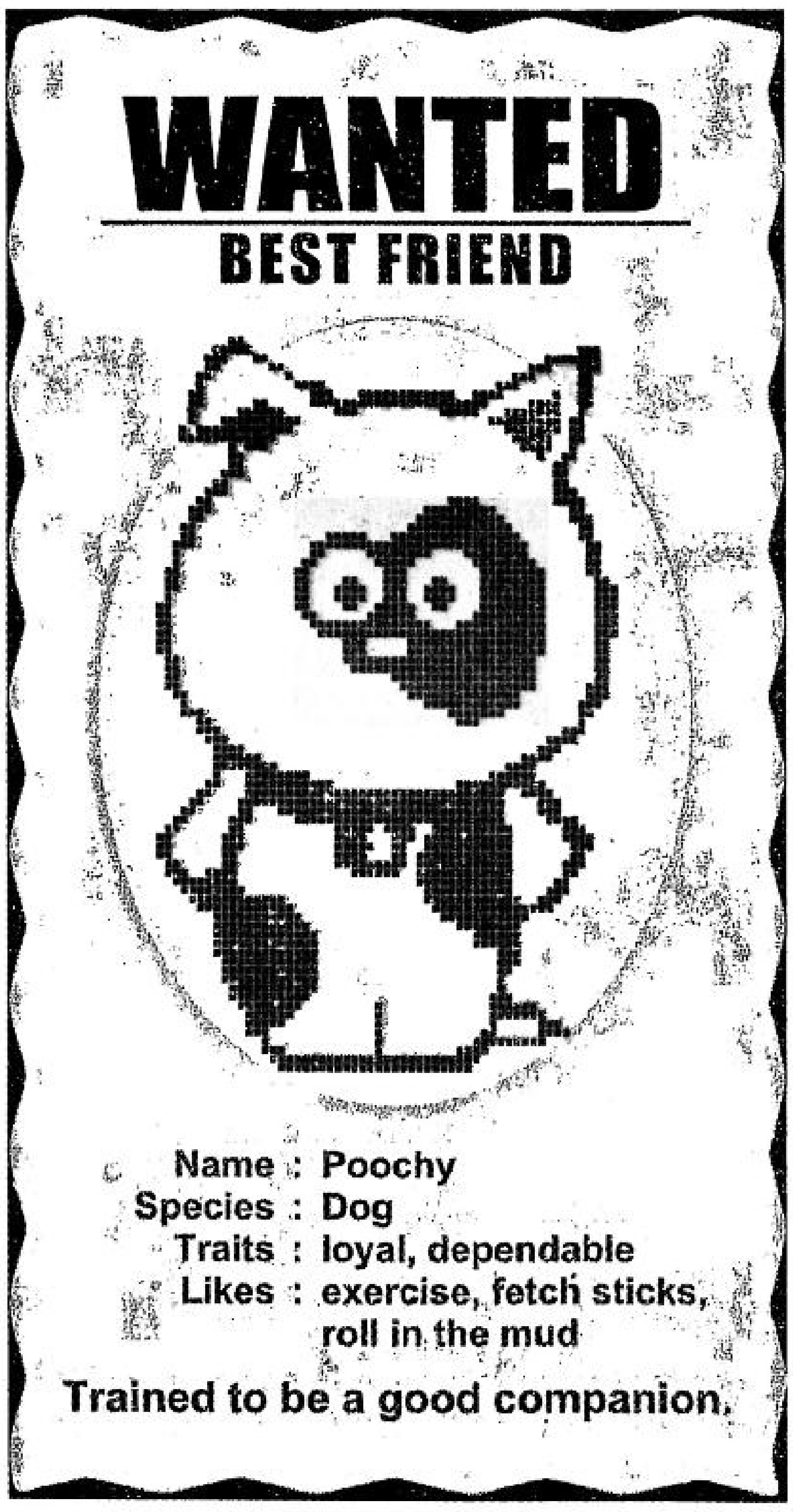
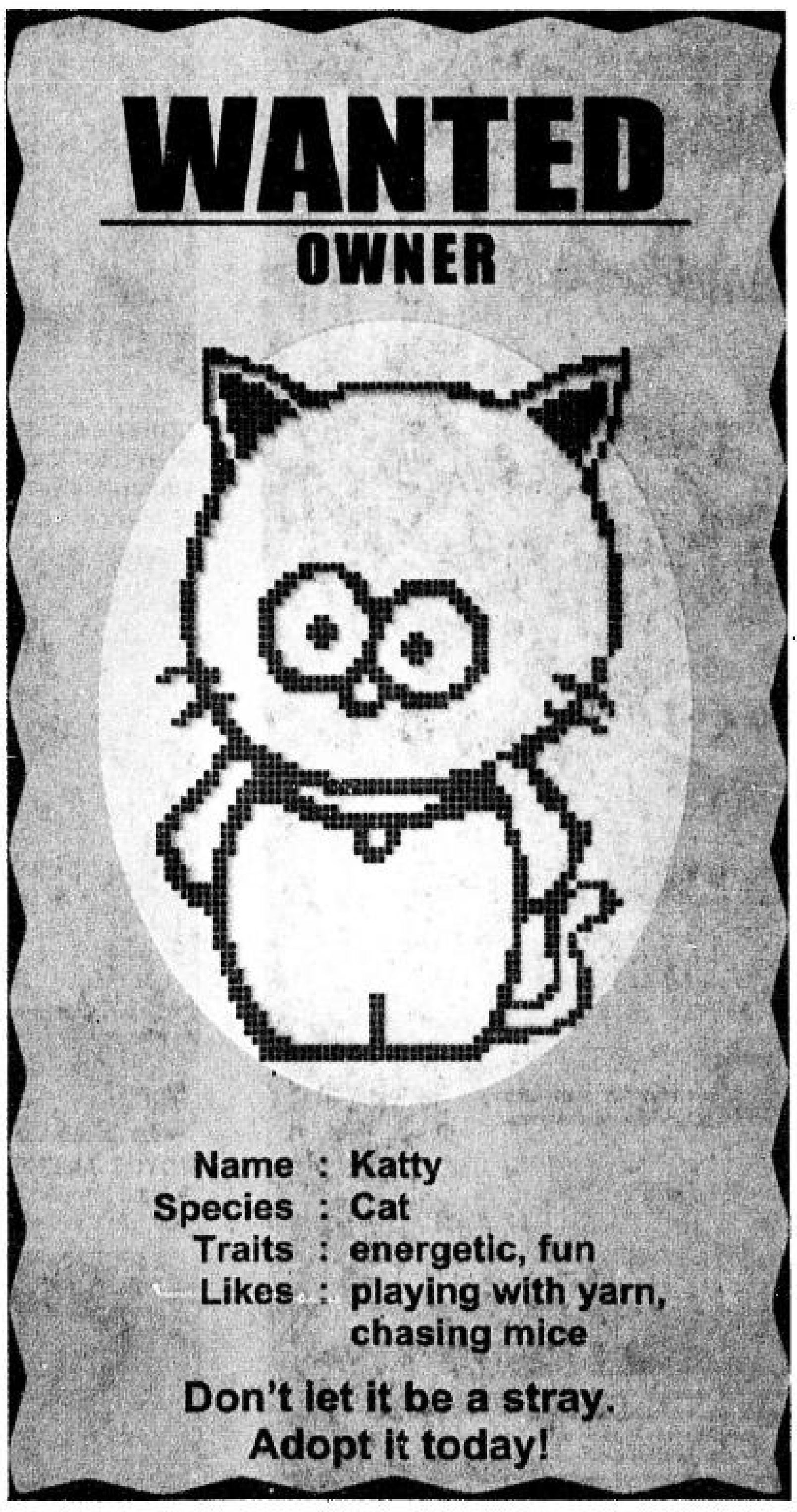
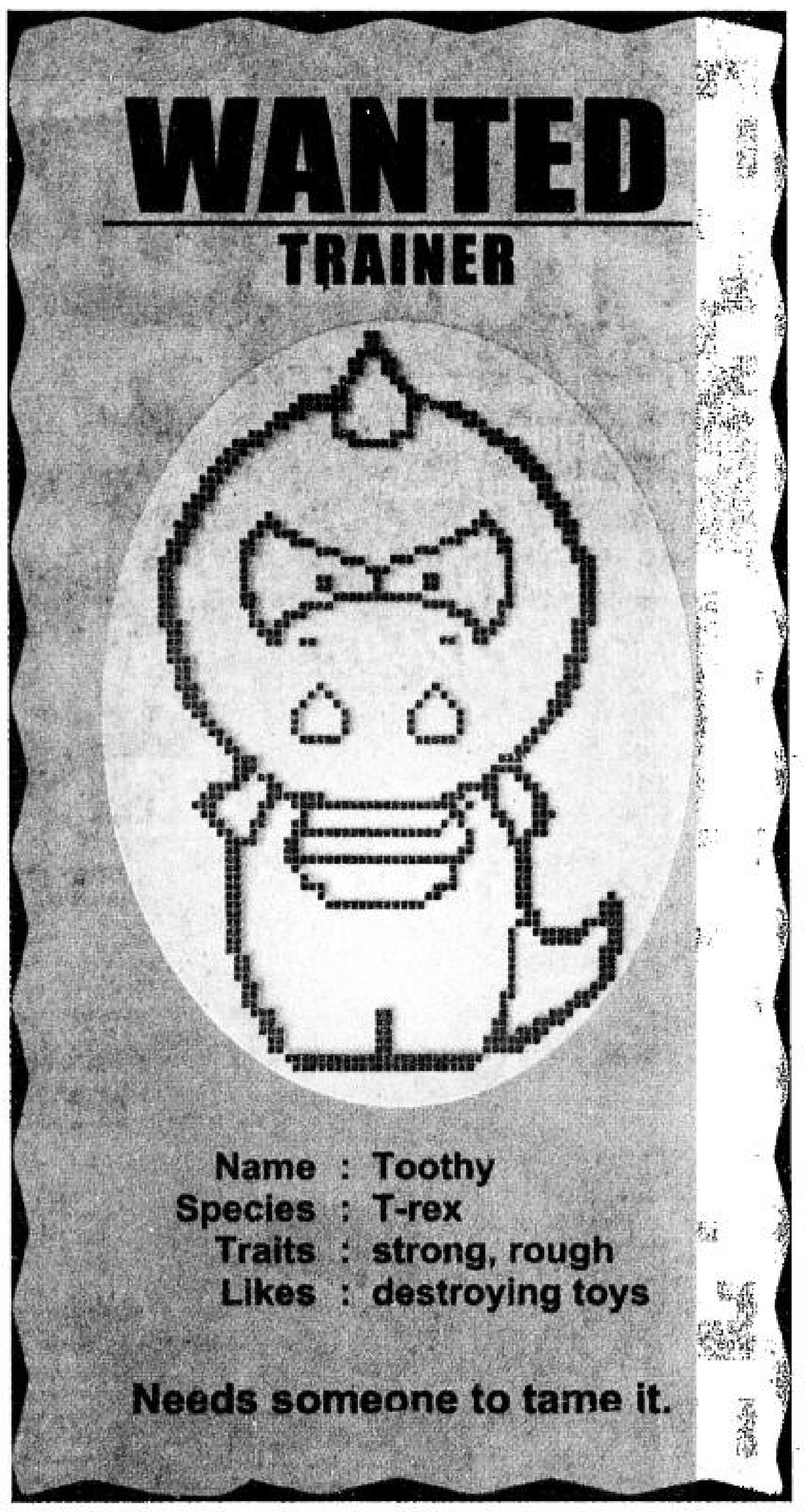

WANTED
BEST FRIEND
Name : Poochy
Species : Dog
Traits : loyal, dependable
Likes : exercise, fetch sticks, roll in the mud
Trained to be a good companion.


WANTED
OWNER
Name : Katty
Species : Cat
Traits : energetic, fun
Likes : playing with yarn, chasing mice
Don't let it be a stray.
Adopt it today!


WANTED
TRAINER
Name : Toothy
Species : T-rex
Traits : strong, rough
Likes : destroying toys
Needs someone to tame it.

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PHOEMELA BARANDA
The face that launched a thousand products. With this, she bought herself and her family a house. And she just turned 21.

AMANDA GRIFFIN
For men, she's the girl of their dreams. For women, she's the girl next door that they love to envy. One of the few girls who can get away being sweet.

WENDY PUYAT
Refreshingly pretty, without a whiff of pretension, she represents today's new breed of women in society. Quietly driven and charming.

DEREK RAMSEY
He's the guy who gave the dare to "dip it" (ketchup) on his shoulders, the rocker in the toothpaste commercial, the stallion in the bridal shower. Need I say more?

VIVIENNE TAN
Not resting on her taipan dad's credentials, she set out on her own, focused on education and started her own school. Hers will be a different empire —one of academic pursuits.

ANGEL AQUINO
The quintessential Filipina—earthy and graceful. In her simplicity lies so much strength.

KC CONCEPCION
Elusive and mysterious, pretty and charming. She manages to keep her life private despite eyes surrounding her "Mega-world."

2bU!'s Most Beautiful People

By Tim Yap

WHAT makes a person beautiful? Is it a nice face? Is it a sexy body or a disarming personality? Maybe all of the above, maybe none.

Beauty, after all, is a matter of perspective. No one definition can pin down what true beauty is—to try explaining its essence would make us risk sounding like beauty contest candidates out to define what is undefinable.

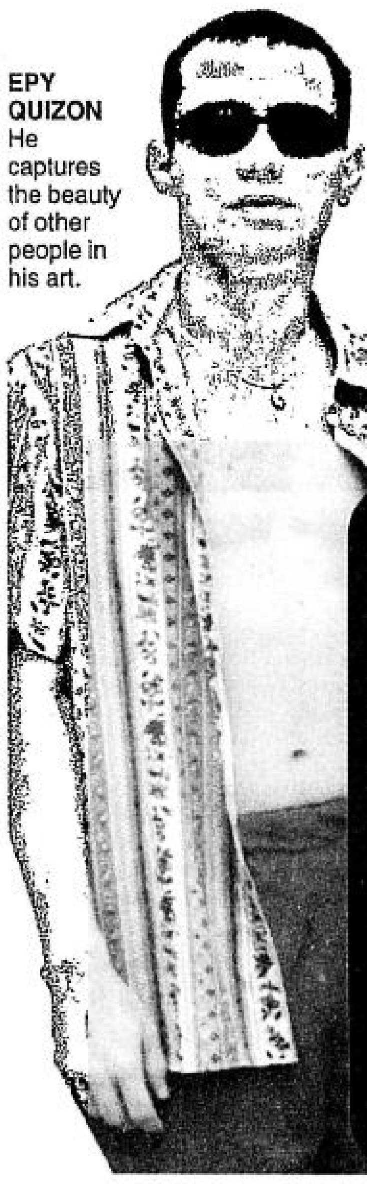
Instead, we have come up with a list of young achievers who have captured the youth's imagination. From students, movie stars, musicians and artists—these pace-setters not only make a lot of heads turn, but also garner nods of respect and admiration for pushing themselves to be the best they can be.

More than the arch of their nose, the curve of their lips or the color of their eyes, their larger than life quality proves that, indeed, there is more to looks than meets the eye.

In the film "American Beauty," Wes Bentley's character puts it best: "There's so much beauty in this world, that sometimes my heart just can't take all of it."

As response, Claire Danes' character in "My So Called Life" said, "You're so beautiful, it hurts to look at you."

In the meantime, behold 2bU!'s Most Beautiful.



EPY QUIZON
He captures the beauty of other people in his art.

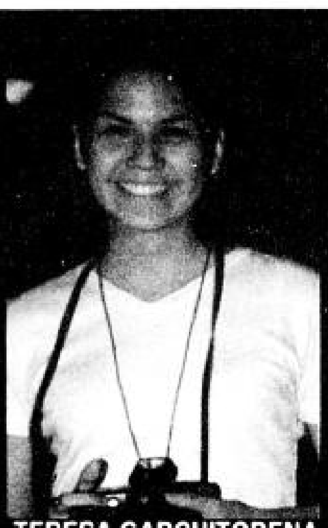
DONITA ROSE
Despite over-exposure, she still manages to look fresh in every appearance. This rose will forever bloom. Must be her close relationship with... God.

RYAN AGONCILLO
He is the guy you would want to bring home to Mom. He made a good number of the population wake up at 5 a.m. That says a lot, doesn't it?

RUFA MAE QUINTO
She tickles us with her sexy demeanor, arousing the... uh, child within us all.

AUDREY TAN
2bU!'s prom queen. Exudes an intelligent and youthful spirit. Will definitely go places.

BIANCA ARANETA.
She proves to us that she is definitely not a "poor little rich girl." She is one of the reasons watching TV has become a welcome habit again.

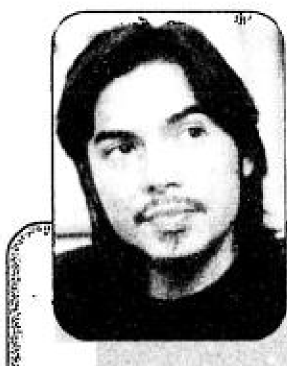


TERESA GARCHITORENA
She let go of city pleasures to embrace life in the province as a personal outreach. Model, photographer, earth lover, friend—no wonder everybody loves her.

JOEY MEAD
She doesn't need a crown to be proven beautiful. To us, she is queen.

TESSA PRIETO-VALDES
Strip out all the excesses (seems impossible, though), and what do you find? A woman out to live life!

LOREN LEGARDA-LEVISTE
She proves that women can be strong yet stylish. Principled, she is a rose in a garden of weeds.

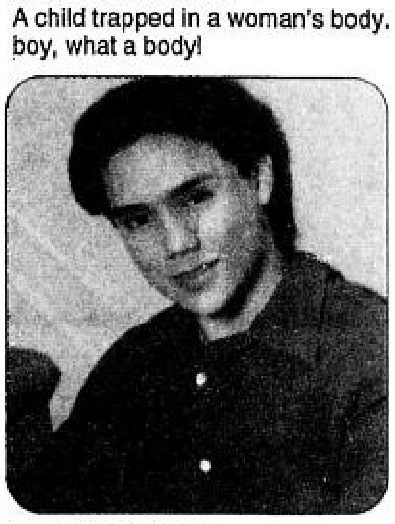


IRA CRUZ
He looks like somebody who will take good care of his girl. Besides, who can resist a musician?

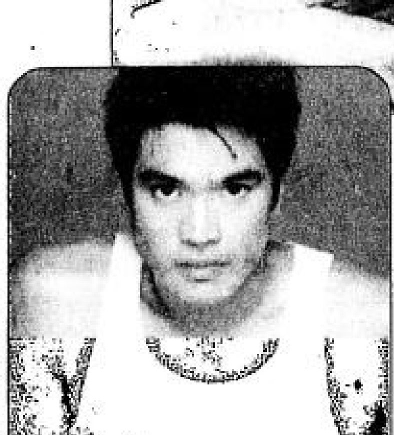
WILMA DOESNT
She is a breath of fresh air in a nation obsessed with mestizas and whitening cream. Down to earth and downright funny, there is nowhere for this girl to go but up.

JOYCE JIMENEZ
A child trapped in a woman's body. And boy, what a body!

TROY MONTERO
Doomsayers predicted his short lifespan in the business. Well, he's still here, getting bigger by the minute. He says on a billboard: "Take me!" Everybody says, "Gladly."



PATRICK GARCIA
Boyish good looks paired with little lost-puppy eyes. According to a staffer, he makes you want to take care of him. (Sugar mommy?)



DIETHER OCAMPO
Makes you wanna buy pizza, gel, whitening lotion and whatever he eats backward.

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4. A guest can only win once. In case a name is drawn more than once, the prize with the higher value is given. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
5. Winners will be notified via phone & registered mail. Raffle prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. Winners can claim their prize at the Head Office of RoastersPhils., Inc., 6/F Singapore Airlines Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or at the Kenny Rogers Roasters store closest to the address given by winner in the raffle coupon.
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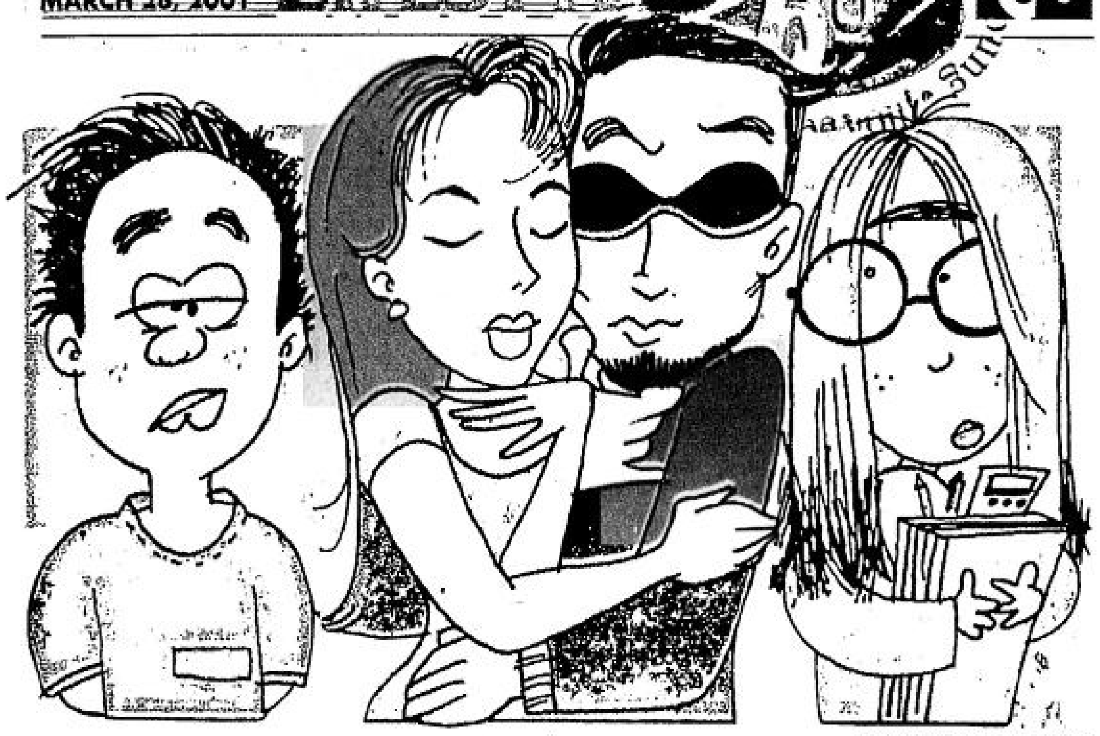


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Pretty on the inside

What's on the cover versus what's inside

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

SLUT kiss girl won't you promise her smack/Is she pretty on the inside?/Is she pretty from the back?" As Courtney Love screams these words through my radio speakers, I think to myself how the world would be a better place to live in if people started altering their definitions of pretty. Or beautiful. Or gorgeous... whatever.

Ask a commoner and all these words would entice a synonymous reaction. For a man: eyes, lips, hair, face... with a slim figure complete with generous appendages in the right places. For a woman: eyes, lips, hair, face... with a lean or muscular physique. That's the Vogue and GQ definition for you and, unfortunately, it is becoming the world's definition, too.

Yes, models, movie stars and pop stars have indeed been blessed immensely—well, physically, anyway. (God knows if they think the Philippines is located in the Bahamas or feel they are God's most gracious gifts to mankind.) But not everyone can say the same for him/herself. And this idealistic notion shouldn't stop anyone from getting to know that geeky math classmate or that commercial model's best friend or that "I-have-Bugs-Bunny- teeth" admirer just because s/he wasn't fortunate enough to have been blessed in that department.

Though this has been said a million times before, these people are just as good—or maybe even better—than those who proudly reign as king and queen of everyone's fantasies. I have met several people who are incredibly striking on the outside yet when I ask mutual friends if they would ever date him/her, they cringe and look at me as though I had just announced the entire country has been diagnosed with the Mad Cow disease.

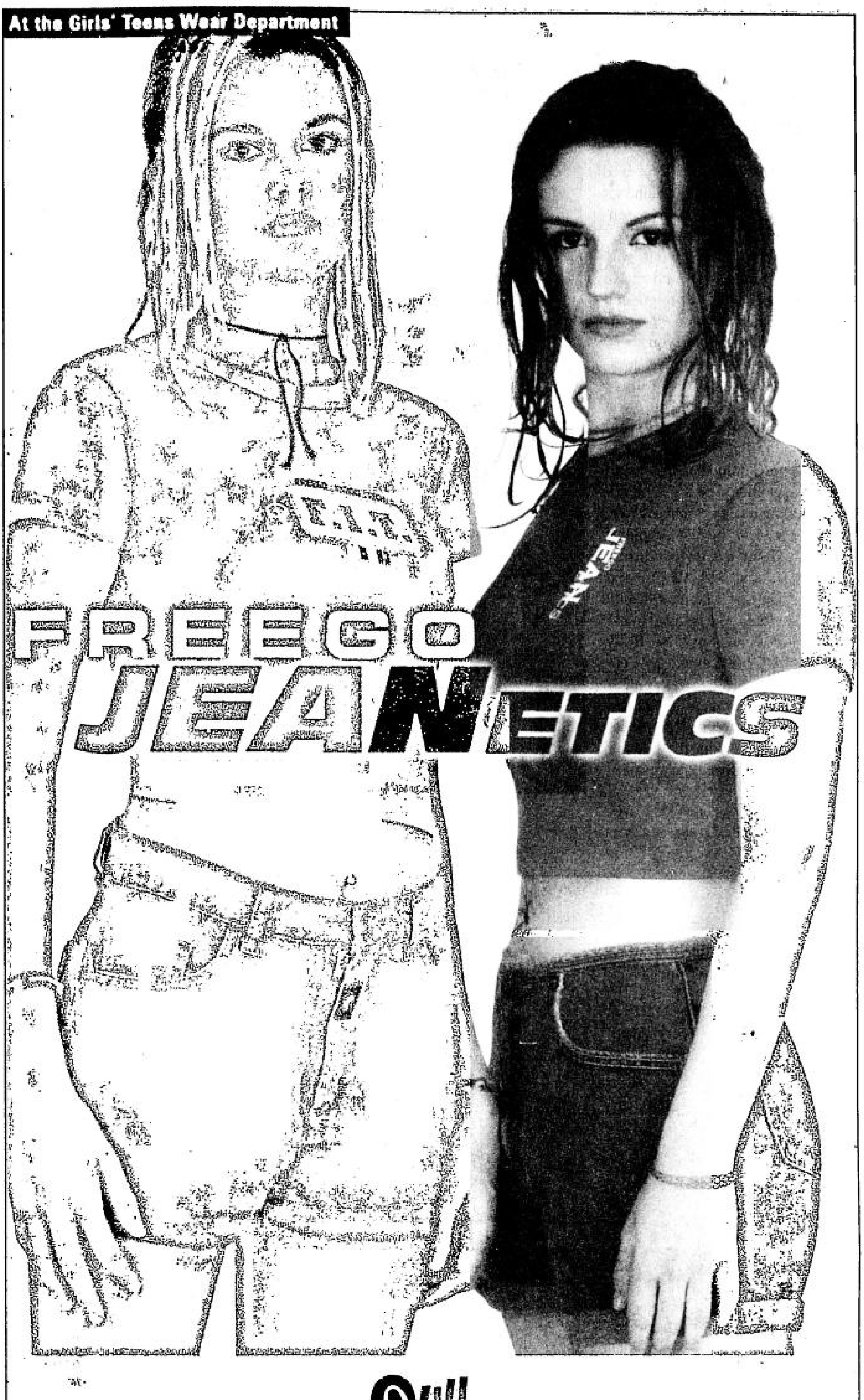
"Why not?" I ask. "She's the real-life [insert supermodel's name] right before your eyes."

They exchange knowing looks and pat my back. "Spend an hour with her, you'll see."

But then again, a lot of people would rather tolerate crass personality as long as s/he gets to show him/her off to all his/her friends. But how long will it last? In the end, the realization will sink in that it's all about honesty and happiness. Besides, in 50 years your smooth, flawless skin will wrinkle up, the silky black/blond/brown hair will turn gray and the perfect teeth will not be the same anymore.

It may seem like beauty will be going down the drain. But not quite actually. In fact, it's paving the way for the ultimate beauty pageant. With all the contestants armed with wrinkled, flabby skin and stained (if not false) teeth, judges will be forced to probe into their characters.

But screw the 50 years; things can change now. Opportunities missed cannot be paused and rewound to play once again. It would then be such a pity. S/He could have been your soul mate or your best friend or your mentor.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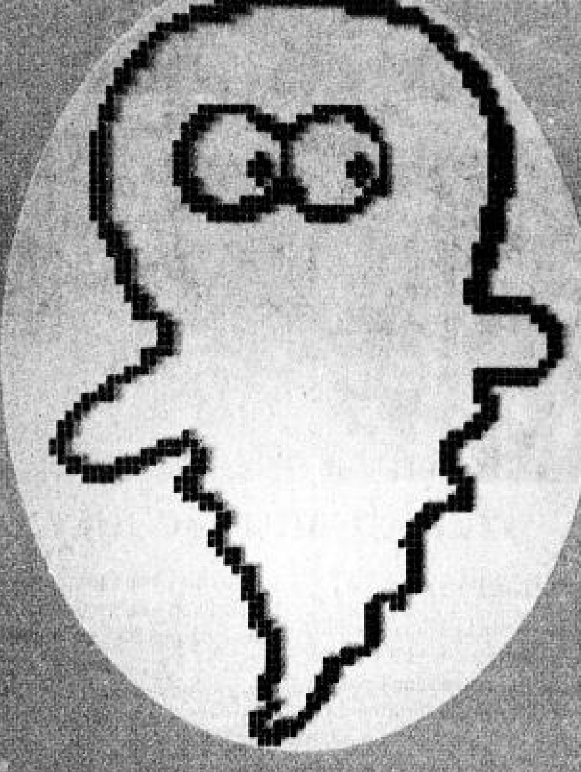
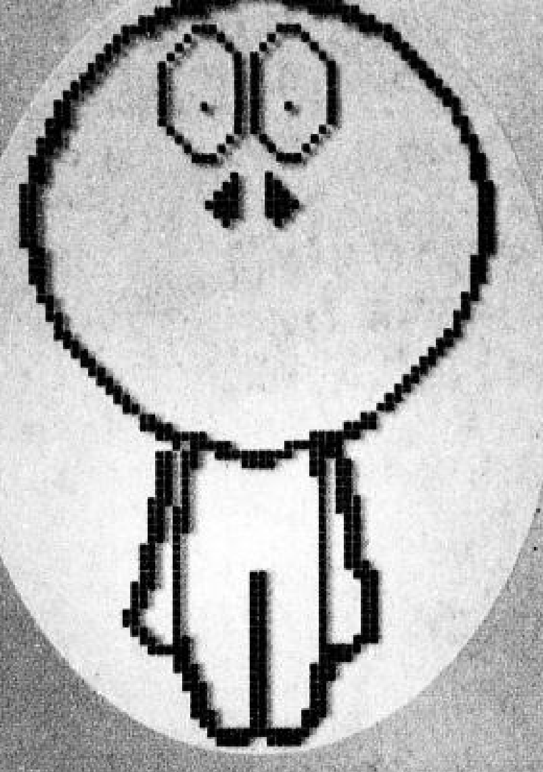
WANTED
SOULmate



Name : Spooky
Species : Supernatural
Traits : unknown
Likes : scaring and haunting people and places

Wants to find peace with a pal.

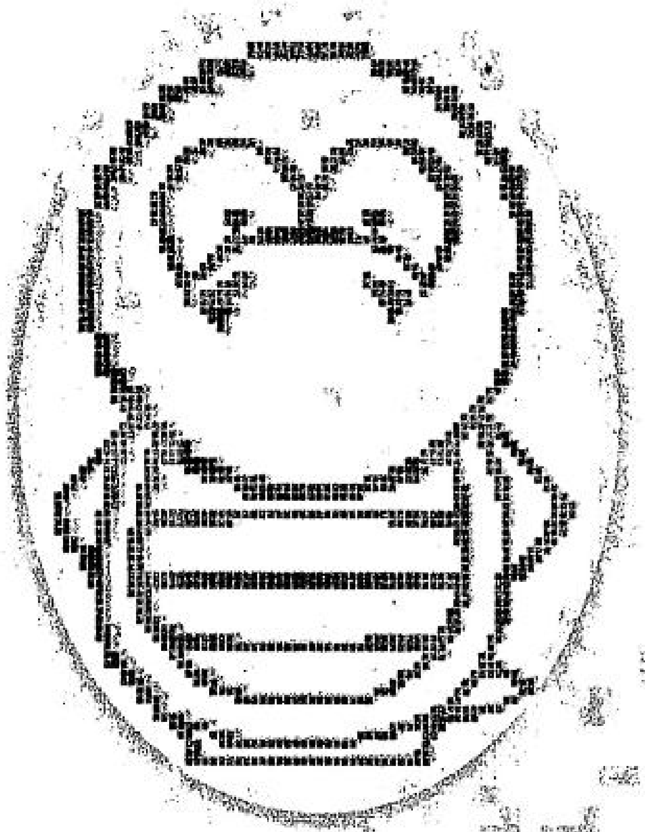
WANTED
EARTHLING



Name : Grey
Species : ???
Traits : unknown
Likes : classified

Needs to befriend an earth life form.

WANTED
COMPANION



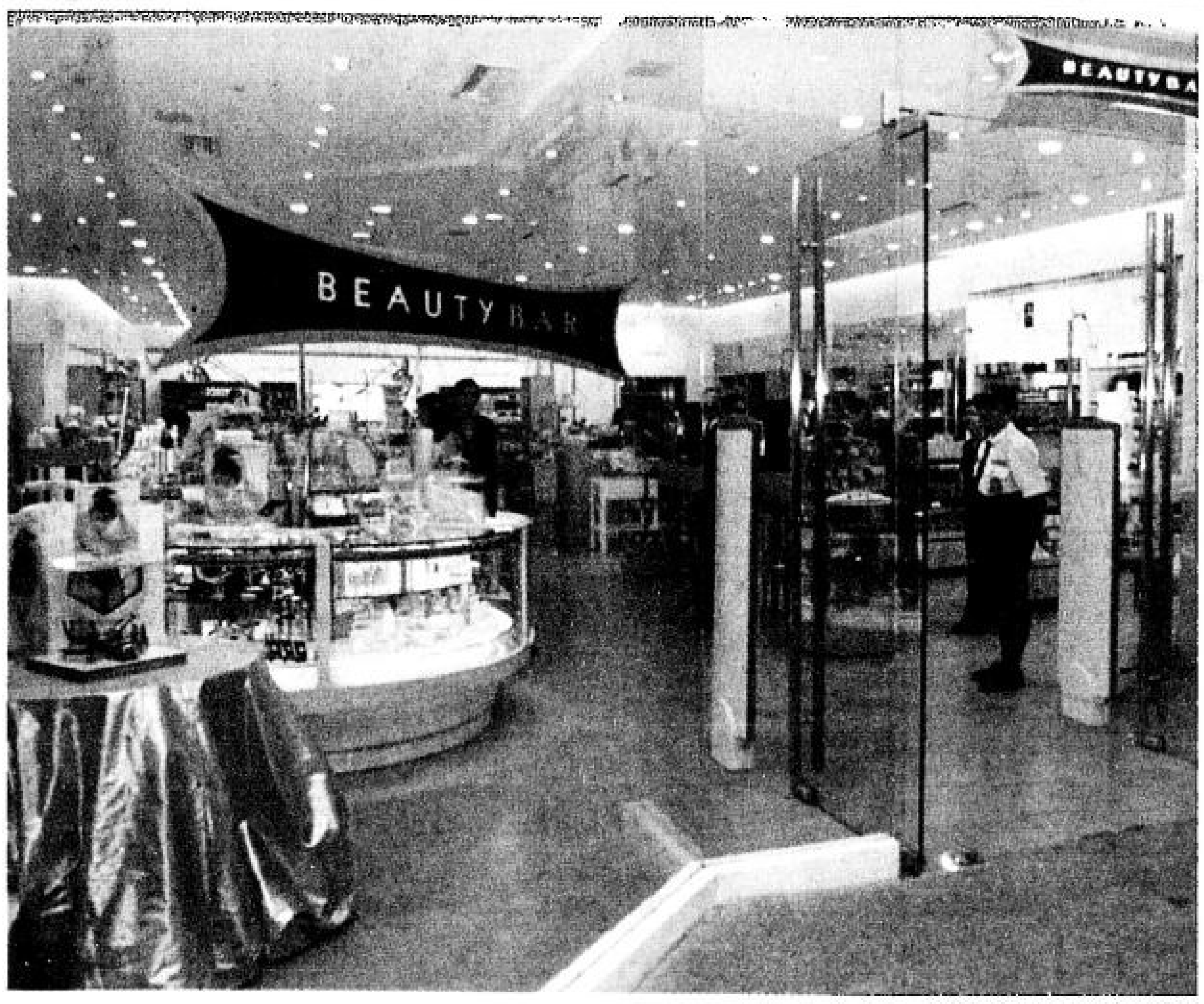
Name : Shelly
Species : Turtle
Traits : shy
Likes : warm pools of water,eating

Looks for someone to help it come out of its shell.

Battle of the beauty bars

THESE days, you don't need to go scrounging around for your favorite beauty essentials in those big super stores. You don't have to elbow your way through the droves of shoppers. No need to deal with *masungit* and clueless salesladies who, more often than not, will refer you to 10 more salesladies for simple questions such as, "Do you have L'Oréal Makeup?" or "Could you point to me where I can find Vaseline Lotion?"

It's a good thing then that a couple of specialty stores geared toward selling beauty essentials have mushroomed in the last couple of years. 2bU! decided to visit Beauty Bar, PCX and SM Health and Beauty, some of Manila's beauty specialty stores. We decided to exclude stores such as The Body Shop and Crabtree and Evelyn since these stores carry only their own brands. The three mentioned were chosen since they carry a variety of brands, from the popular to the obscure, from cheap to expensive.



PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

Beauty Bar

G/F Glorietta

First of all, the place is big. You can't help but be overwhelmed by the size of the place. The first thing that one notices is the smell of the place—peculiar, distinct, pleasant. Imagine you are entering an apothecary's haven—and that there is some herbal concoction being brewed. Just by the smell you already know you are entering a sanctuary for beauty junkies.

Beauty Bar carries a plethora of makeup brands that initially you don't really know where to go first. Clinique and Estée Lauder greet you at the entrance. The girl stationed at the Clinique section was really helpful, especially since I asked her one of the most difficult beauty questions—what concealer matches best with my skin tone. She patiently guided me through various shades and nuances of each concealer. She was attentive, but not smothering.

They also carry brands such as Smell This (perfume line with very intriguing scents—*piña colada*, chocolate chip, iced tea, cake batter), Bath2Basics (Dindi Gallardo's popular soaps), a whole lot of aromatherapy stuff (the aromatherapy energy kit was fabulous). They also have the immensely popular Dirty Girl lip balms and lip gloss and De T. Le Clerc makeup (the most popular being the shade, Banane).

Bloom and Philosophy are also some of the brands found in Beauty Bar. Philosophy's Breaking Point—an intensive overnight treatment for dry or damaged hair—is a necessity especially for those whose hair has been severely damaged. Bloom Facial Body Mist in Orange was refreshing and Bloom's lip lacquers are a must in any girl's makeup kit. Ms Jenny, one of the salesladies, amazed me with her knowledge on Bloom and Smashbox (another favorite) items. She gamely applied Smashbox Soft Light Smashing Shimmer, and even made sure it was even all over my face.

There's a table with mirrors and makeup you can easily try on. The attendants were more than ready to assist me as I tried on different shades of lipstick and eye shadow. There was even one who was willing enough to teach me to apply eye shadow. I begged off, of course—she had no idea that for the life of me, I will never learn to mix and match and apply those wonderful colors on my eyelids.

In general, the attendants were really helpful except they seem to follow you around too much it can be irritating. Most of my friends tell me (and I can't help but concur) the attendants act as if you're a potential shoplifter.

The prices are not cheap. But then every piece of makeup is an investment, right?

There was a lot of really cool stuff—I left the place a bit exasperated since I couldn't get everything I wanted to buy. Anyway, Beauty Bar is one of the best places to go when you're having a bad day. Just a whiff of the smell of the place and just being immersed in those glorious beauty essentials is enough to lift up your mood. But we do miss the Juice Bar.

PCX (Personal Care Xchange)

Glorietta 1, Ayala Center, Makati City

I first heard of PCX when I asked a friend where I could get Acmedica pressed powder. PCX is, to say the least, a wonderful find.

Although the place is not that big, it isn't that small either that a claustrophobic would surely abhor. In fact, I think it works better for PCX that their stalls are not so big. No ambience that would confuse—this place is for serious buyers.

The salesladies are nice enough and they leave you alone to peruse and enjoy the items. Questions about items are readily answered and the most important thing is that they don't bug you to buy.

The place carries those fantastic Japanese brands (it's a bit hard to figure out the names, though) that is suited especially for Asian skin. My friends especially adore those cute and handy Japanese compact cases.

PCX always has a steady supply of Calgon Turqouise Seas Body Spray, which is an absolute favorite among my friends and I. They also carry Bath and Body items, L'Oréal makeup and cleansing items. Every time I need to replenish my St. Ive's Apricot Scrub and L'Oréal's Mattique, I head straight to PCX.

The prices are quite affordable.

Health and Beauty

Shoemart

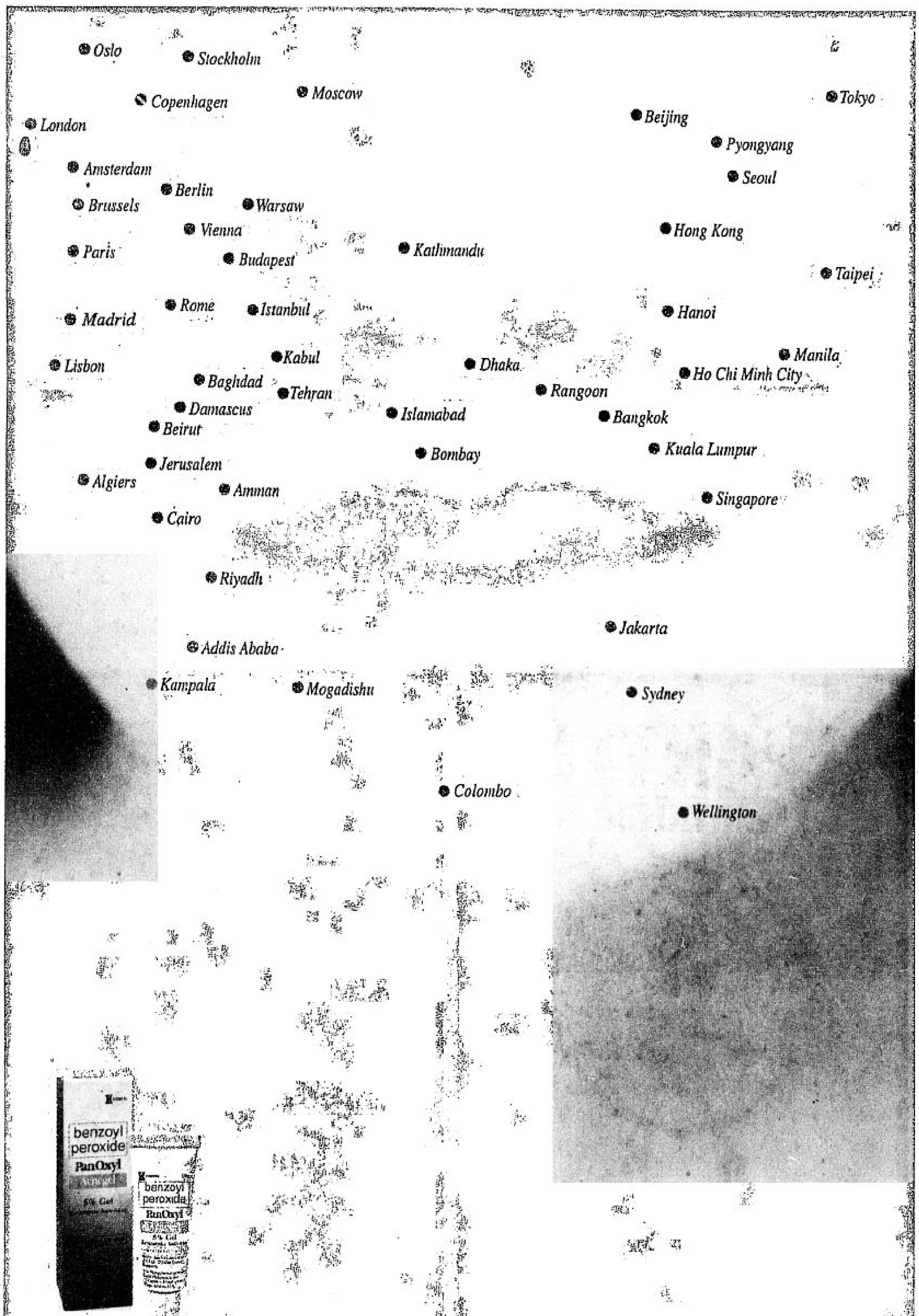
If there is one thing I like about SM Health and Beauty, it is the fact that they never run out Angelique Eyeliner. They also sell those vitamin containers that I seem to never tire of buying.

Health and Beauty is very accessible and it has been there for the longest time that people have practically memorized where most of the items are located. Tammy says she always goes to SM Health and Beauty, especially when her *lola* asks her to buy Adamson Cotton Balls. Popular brands like Max Factor, Maybelline and Helena Curtis are available. They have a wide variety of Con Air products and various hairstyling gadgets.

When you're in a hurry and you absolutely need to get your beauty essentials in a short amount of time, then the best place to go is SM Health and Beauty. Guys love to buy at Health and Beauty since it is a no-frills place, unlike other places where they wouldn't want to be caught dead in since they consider it "too girly."

The salesladies are, most of the time, no help. Questions are usually either ignored or they give the usual response, "*Eh ganon talaga eh!*" and then proceed to continue their life-changing conversations with other salesladies. Also, one can't seem to consider the salesladies as credible purveyors of makeup since they wear thick gunk which, most of the time, make them look uhmmm... unpleasant.

Jules Alcantara



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PA-01-01 PH

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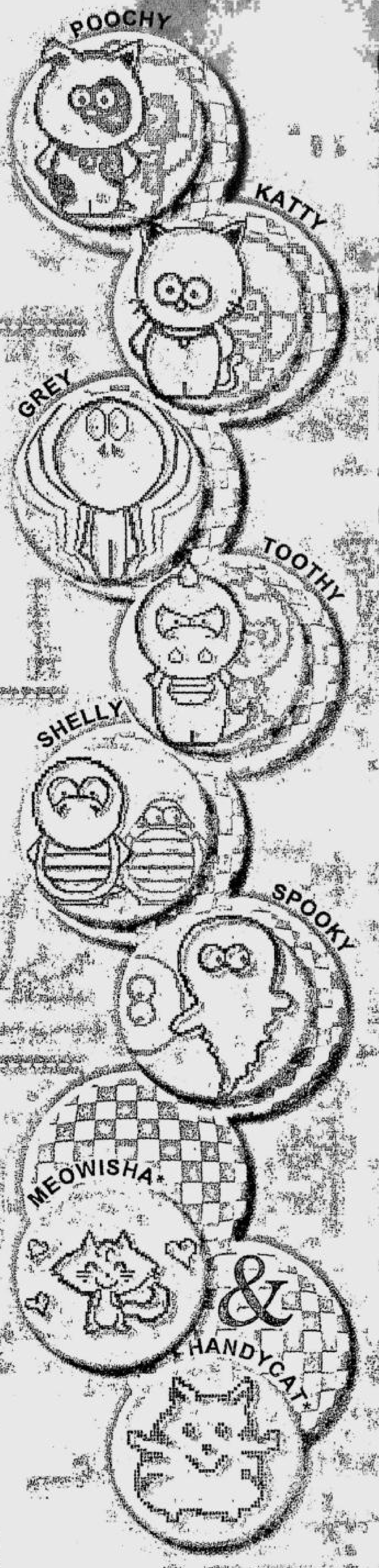

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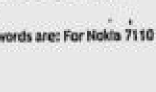

If you're a first time WAP-user, type in the keyword of your phone type* and send to 2333. The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. Follow the settings and configure your phone.

2

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Home
Exit

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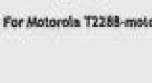
3

Connecting to service
Cancel

You will then see a prompt advising that you are being connected to the service.

4



Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Click on New Sites or Games, then to Wireless Games. Click "No" to register, if you are a first time user, then select Wireless Pets and wap away.

The keywords are: For Nokia 7110 and 6210-nokiawap; For EricssonR320s-ericssonwap; For Siemens M35-siemenswap; For Motorola T2288-motorolawap

wirelessgames.com

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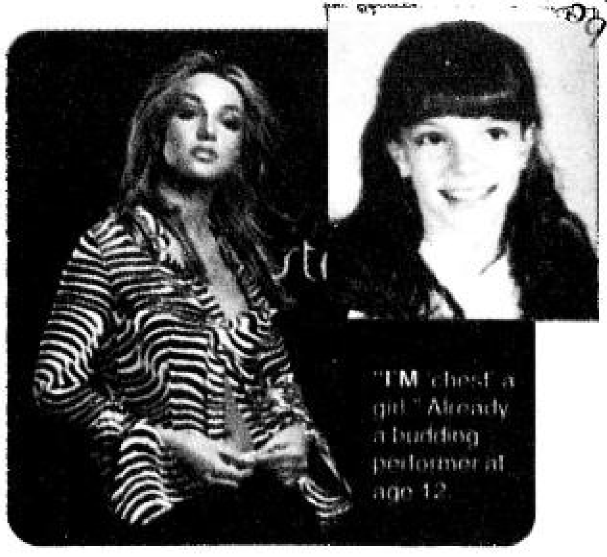
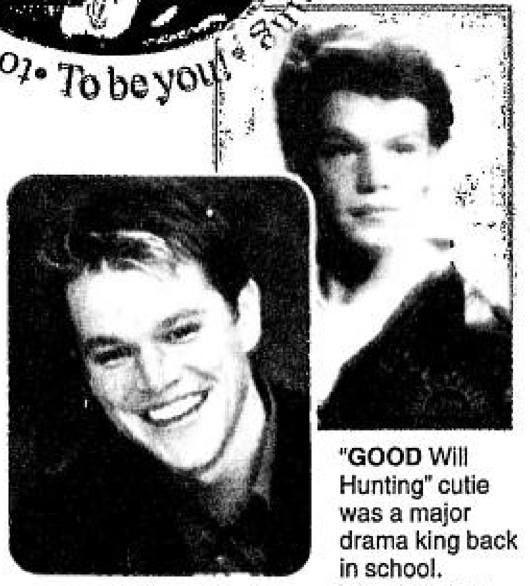
THE MICKEY Mouse Club graduate enters diva school and receives a grade of A.



"I'M chest a girl." Already a budding performer at age 12.



"GOOD Will Hunting" cutie was a major drama king back in school. Wonder what hair products he used.

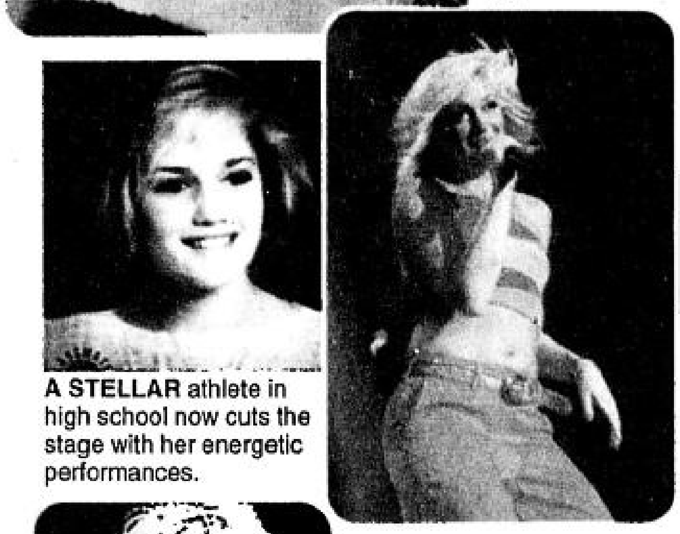
LET'S just say, props for the transformation, man.

Before and after

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

THERE are several reasons you should thank your lucky stars you're not, well, a star. Aside from the fact that the press fawns over stars (well, okay, maybe some of us may like that), nosey people can dig up old photos that stars wish had stayed hidden, never to surface again. Tough luck. But since we in the press are such nice people, we'll make them feel even better about themselves by showing to the world the vast improvements they underwent And remember, aspiring celebs: Your graduation picture is a big deal.

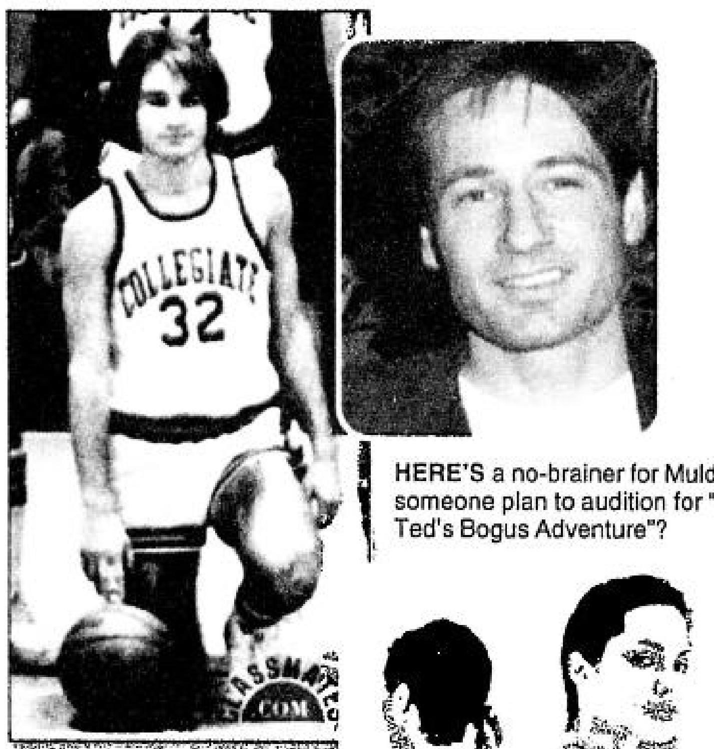
Take heart, Mr and Ms Ordinary. The celebs you're swooning now were not only ordinary mortals before—they looked lowly and the least likely to succeed



A STELLAR athlete in high school now cuts the stage with her energetic performances.

SWEET as American pie, pre-Seventeen model Diaz in high school, and on the red carpet.

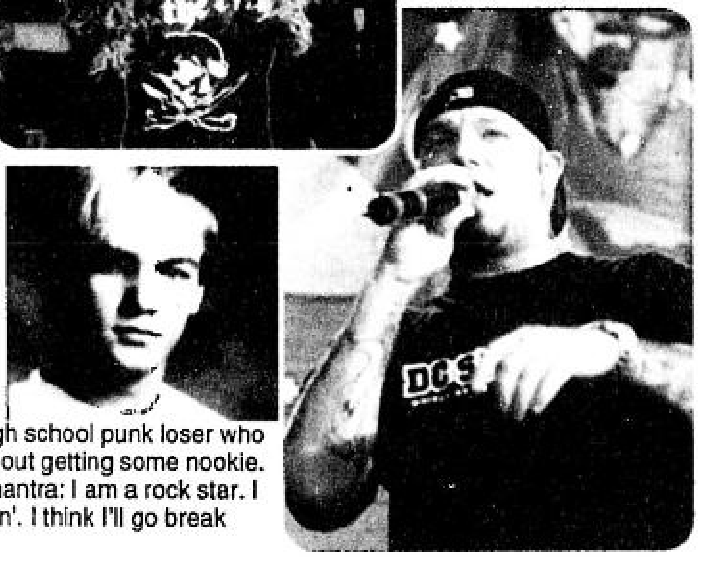
A "HOLE" lotta improvement in Ms Love's makeup bag. The goddess of rock who made grunge cool now made rock glam.



HERE'S a no-brainer for Mulder... did someone plan to audition for "Bill & Ted's Bogus Adventure"?

AND the beat goes on: A little twist here, a little screw there... what year did she graduate again?

THE QUEEN of angst was once obsessed with hairspray, pop and Madonna.



FORMER high school punk loser who now sings about getting some nookie. Repeat his mantra: I am a rock star. I will keep rollin'. I think I'll go break stuff.

OKAY, what's with the granny hairdo? Thank god she discovered Vidal Sassoon.

FROM HIGH school to high cool—this babe is classy and wild.

Beauty shop of horrors

By Pam Pastor

THE ROAD to beauty is not an easy one. If you're not born with looks that kill, society dictates you should do whatever it is to look better—or at least, presentable. This may not be written in the books—but it is something most people know. Superficiality is not uncommon in this place we move around in. No wonder so many are going overboard in their desire to be called "pretty."

And so society has cosmetic surgery, liposuction, makeup, salons, waxing, etc., etc., etc. Sometimes, though, the attempts backfire.

When my trusty hairdresser blow-dries my unbelievably thick hair and I start complaining about his being rough, he says, "No pain, no gain." And when I step out of the salon, with my naturally wavy hair hanging straight past my shoulders, I agree with him—completely.

But what happens when your attempt at being beautiful leaves you with more pain? Read on.

I had a big date and wanted to feel really pretty. I went to this *sikat* salon—I wanted to splurge on a haircut. The guy hacked off my shoulder-length hair. I ended up with spikes. I looked like a nightmare from the '80s. I ended up bawling my eyes out. I cancelled my date.—**Joan, 23**

NO000000
PaRTy!

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

My cousin told me about this great facial scrub she was using. I decided to get myself a huge jar so I could try it, too. Just days later, I had pimples all over my face. Major breakout! Turned out I was allergic!—**Tina, 20**

When I was a college freshman, we had a big acquaintance party. My mom wanted to be the one to put my makeup on. My face was so white and my lips were so red. I looked like a clown! I never let her touch my face again.—**Mae, 21**

I went to one of those huge cosmetics department stores in Hong Kong, Sasa, I think. There was this overzealous saleslady who kept following me around as I tried to pick out funky nail colors. She started talking loudly, giving me tips on how I could improve my face—with everyone else in the store hearing her every word. She pulled out a tube of concealer and said, "This will do wonders for your pimples." I ended up buying the stuff just to shut her up. I wanted to die of embarrassment.—**Darlene, 20**

My eyebrows are thick. One day, I was so bored at home and decided to do something about it. Following the instructions in a magazine, I stood in front of the bathroom mirror and attacked my eyebrows. In the beginning, plucking the strands hurt. After a while, I began to like it. I must have enjoyed it too much I ended up removing most of my right eyebrow. It became too thin. It was horrible. I had to do the same to my left eyebrow *para magpantay*. Then I had to spend long minutes every day drawing eyebrows on my face with my mom's eyebrow pencil.—**Jen, 19**

I was getting ready for a big date. Since I wanted to look nice for my honey, I attempted to put on makeup for the first time. I thought I did well. My boyfriend picked me up, looking superb in his crisp white polo. I was really sweet with him in the car, I rested my head on his shoulder. To my horror, I saw that I left a huge makeup stain on his shirt. *Buti na lang* he had an extra shirt. So much for my fairy-tale evening.—**Katrina, 17**

My bangs were getting pretty long. I wanted to have them cut but I wasn't in the mood to rush to the barbershop. My older sister volunteered to practice her snipping talents on me. Stupid decision, but I said yes. She cut it all wrong. She couldn't get it straight. She kept cutting and cutting. When she was done, I was howling already. I hardly had any bangs left. I looked like Jim Carrey from "Dumb and Dumber." It was a disaster.—**Powie, 16**

I decided to get my nails done for the first time. The girl was really rough, especially when she was giving me a pedicure. I was wincing in pain half the time. I got an infection *pa*. I couldn't walk straight for days. That was traumatic.—**Chari, 18**

My girl best friend had this brilliant idea, telling me to wear lip gloss. "Girls like guys with kissable lips," she said. I bought cherry-flavored lip balm. And if you must know, no, I didn't get to kiss any girls. My dog Woof loved it, though. He kept slobbering all over me. Ugh.—**Nick, 20**

My classmates in high school made it their mission to pluck my too-bushy eyebrows. I put my foot down—I absolutely refused. But they cornered me in the school bathroom, two of them held me, another classmate held a mirror in front of me while another kept plucking. Tears were streaming down my cheeks and I was cursing them. It hurt a lot. "You'll thank us later," they said. I must admit, my eyebrows looked great after.—**Jane, 22**

I thought I'd look better with lighter hair so I bought dye and decided to do the whole process in my own bathroom. It's definitely cheaper than going to the salon. I think I left it on my hair too long before washing it off. My hair turned orange-y, I got split ends and my scalp became really itchy. I had no choice but to go to the salon in a desperate attempt to save my hair. That's what I got for being cheap.—**Dee-dee, 21**

Since I know zilch about makeup, I let my mom put makeup on my face. Good thing my grandma saw me before I left for the party. "You look like a geisha!" she exclaimed, her eyebrows knitted. She made me wash my face and put really light makeup on me. Whew!—**Patricia, 20**

I read somewhere that eggs and olive oil are good for the hair. I microwaved a cup of oil and put it in my hair. Then I added a raw egg. *Napaso na ako*, I think *naluto pa yung* egg. It was disgusting. It smelled awful and I couldn't get it out. My hair felt so greasy for days.—**Frances, 22**

E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph

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Beauty essentials from the pros

BY JULES ALCANTARA

EVER been curious about the favorites of top makeup artists? The list given by some of the top makeup artists in the country is a veritable mine of information. Whether you are a makeup junkie or someone who prefers to look au naturel (of course with the help of subtle makeup), then the list will surely be of help to you. Some of the items can be found in the nearest specialty stores, on the Net, or even at the nearest fruit stand. Of course, some are a bit expensive. But then again, we did interview the best in the country. They didn't become the best because they scrimped on a few bucks, right?

Teng Roma
Emphasis
Rockwell Information Center
Estrella corner Amapola Streets, Makati City
Tel. 898-0818/19

Roma's top five beauty essentials are natural ingredients combined with today's latest hair and body treatments. Wellness and natural methods are the focus of today's woman.

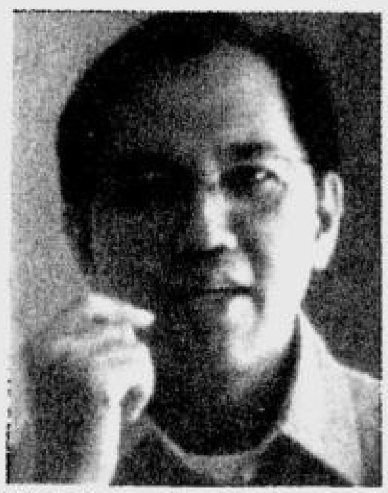
- Avocado. Its natural oils rejuvenate and replenish lost suppleness of hair and skin
- Cucumber. Best for weary skin and perks up face and hair.
- Papaya. This is great for summer especially for the hair and skin. It removes dead cells to allow the skin to show its true softness.
- Coconut oil
- Minyak Zaitun—Asian-herbed olive oil

Henri Calayag
BCBG
6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. 812-7379

Calayag gives us a list of beauty products to enhance the Filipina's natural beauty.

- **Chanel's Aqualumieres.** This is a treat since this is a three-in-one product plus it is an all-purpose face tint (for the eyes, cheeks and lips). Available at Rustan's.
- **Almay's Amazing Eyeliner (liquid).** Super fab rubber-tip application. This should be used for easy, no-mistakes applications. Available at any PX outlet.
- **Estée Lauder Spotlight (Skin Tone Perfection).** Instantly turns on the radiance and helps even out skin tone. It also decreases the appearance of discoloration and sunspots. This should be applied before makeup. Available at Rustan's.
- **MAC Press Powder and Foundation.** Its very fine texture helps even out coverage. A must for every day. Available at Landmark.
- **MAC Lipstick (Sequin).** For its versatile color or shade. It can be used for both day and night and will give a softer overall look. Best for the classic bride-to-be. I use it on all my brides-to-be. It complements the whole look without making the features too strong. It is my all-time favorite. Available at Landmark.

HENRI Calayag



TENG Roma

Victor Pablo
Emphasis
Rockwell Information Center
Estrella corner Amapola Streets, Makati City
Tel. 898-0818/0819

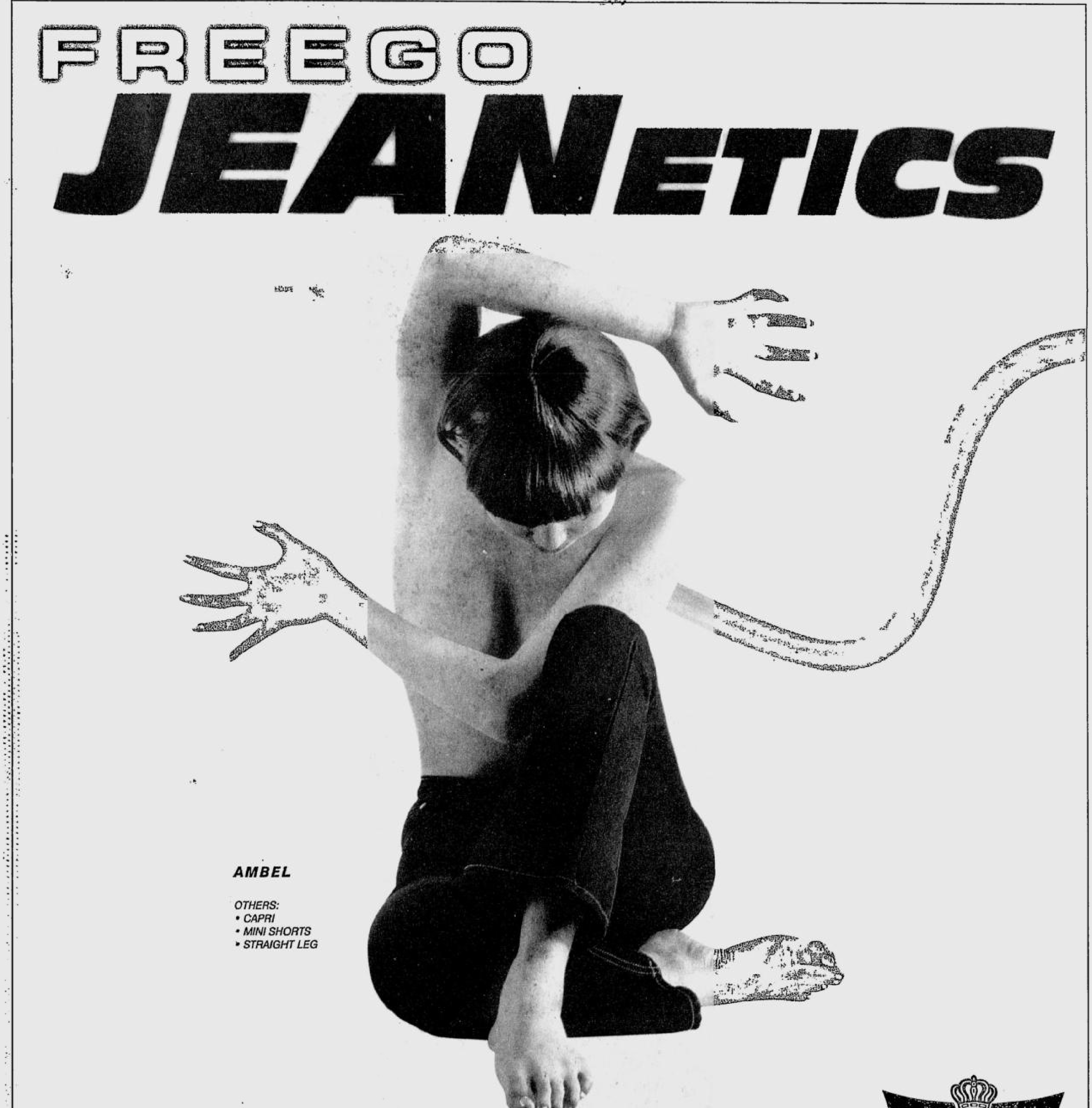
This award-winning makeup artist provides us with his top five favorites.

- **Shu Uemura brushes.** I prefer these because of the softness and pliability of the bristles. Perfect for the art of creating faces. Available at www. sephora.com.
- **Dial-a-lash Mascara by Maybelline.** A definite classic. It's been around for ages, but is still the best in terms of its controlled release of the amount of mascara you need. It is the best smudge-proof and waterproof mascara in the market today. Available in most makeup stores.
- **Double Wear Foundation by Estée Lauder.** Smooth and even application; very natural-looking. Available at Rustan's and Beauty Bar.
- **Silhouette Superhold Hair Spray by Schwarzkopf.** Just a little is needed to hold any hairstyle. Available at beauty salons.
- **Herbal Slimming Tea Concoction (homemade).** Victor's special preparation that is applied on the face before makeup keeps the skin radiant. (Available at Emphasis)

Juan O. Sarte III
Propaganda
4F Rustan's
Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati
Tel. 893-4098, 813-3739 local 266

The five most essential items in my makeup kit are: a) skin cleanser; b) a pair of tweezers; c) a good concealer; d) cheek and lip color in one and, e) an eyelash curler.

- **Cetaphil.** At Propaganda, we always stress the importance of skin prep before makeup application. One must start with a clean canvas. Cetaphil cleanses skin with or without water. It is nondrying and recommended by dermatologists. Available at leading drug and grocery stores.
- **Tweezerman tweezers.** One can easily change the expression of a face by altering the eyebrows. But whether thick, thin, arched or straight, eyebrows should always be well-groomed. Tweezing is better than shaving. Shaving cuts the tip of the hair making it appear thicker when it grows back. The best tweezers in the world are by Tweezerman. Sometimes available at Rustan's Le Drug, Central Maquillage or Crossings Department Store.
- **Laura Mercier Secret Camouflage.** This concealer disappears even if used only on dark under-eye circles and blemishes and not on the entire face. It looks like skin! Available at www.lauramercier.com
- **Benetint by Benefit.** Blood is what makes natural blush and just bitten lips. The color of this sheer lip and cheek stain is like blood underneath the skin. Available at Sari-Sari Store and at www.sephora.com.
- **Shu Uemura Eyelash Curler.** Since I was asked to name five essentials only, I had to choose between an eyelash curler and a mascara. I chose an eyelash curler because mascara on straight lashes will only make them heavier and therefore close the eyes rather than open it. An eyelash curler is a must-have especially for Asians with straight eyelashes. Shu Uemura makes good eyelash curlers. Available at www.sephora.com.



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UNDER THE EXPERT hands of Victor Pablo

A day in the beauty salon

BY JULES ALCANTARA
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

HER features are not that perfect. They are not even remark able.

The nose is not as upturned as most mestizas are. The jaws are a bit too wide, giving off the impression that sweet as she may seem to be, she is not an easy dame to please. The eyes are a light shade of brown, innocent, smiling at first, but after a while there is a hint of naughtiness, of knowing, like she's in on the joke. The lips have a certain kind of pout, but definitely not à la Christy Turlington.

But by God, Kristine Hermosa is beautiful. No one will ever doubt that she is one, if not the most beautiful, of the upcoming young stars in show business. Hers is the kind of beauty that does not assault the senses. Although I must say that I could not help but utter a silent "Wow!" upon meeting her at Emphasis, Rockwell's newest salon. Her beauty grows on you for it is a unique and pleasant combination of innocence and danger.

With a tough and grueling work schedule, it was not at all surprising that Tinseltown's newest and freshest beauty has not gone to the salon for quite some time. It was most fitting then that we met. She needed, at the very least, a few hours of respite, of escape from the harsh klieg lights, of indulgence and pampering. It was a welcome serendipity that Emphasis provided her with privacy (she had her treatments in a very private room, away from the prying eyes of other customers), with massages that soothed her frayed nerves, with soft instrumental music that lulled her. She needed to be away from the madding crowd even for just a little while and, indeed, she was transported to another milieu as she took in the glorious Bali-inspired interiors. She needed an afternoon of uninterrupted bliss. And a manicure and pedicure.

Telegenic

By now, everyone knows or has already heard of the story of how this 16-year-old (going on 17) young star entered the crazy world that is show business. Accompanying her sister to an audition at ABS-CBN five years ago, Kristine instead was chosen. Star maker Johnny Manahan must have seen the potential in her even though when he asked her if she had any of the requisite skills (singing, dancing, acting) she said, "No." "I was 'telegenic' *daw*," she recalls. The camera loved her. But fluke she is not since Kristine has emerged as one of the assets of ABS-CBN. In fact, at the rate things are going, she is a sure bet for superstardom.

It is her sister, Kristine claims, who is "very talented." A few months after Kristine joined ABS-CBN, her sister followed suit. There is no sibling rivalry between the two since Kristine says they are "very, very close."

Beauty regimen

With the way she looks, one would assume that a trip to the salon is a must. But with all the appearances, shootings and other work-related activities that fill up her weekly schedule, it is indeed amazing how she

A DAY/p.D2

"I DON'T even have time for a hot oil treatment at the salon." Well, now you do, Kristine.

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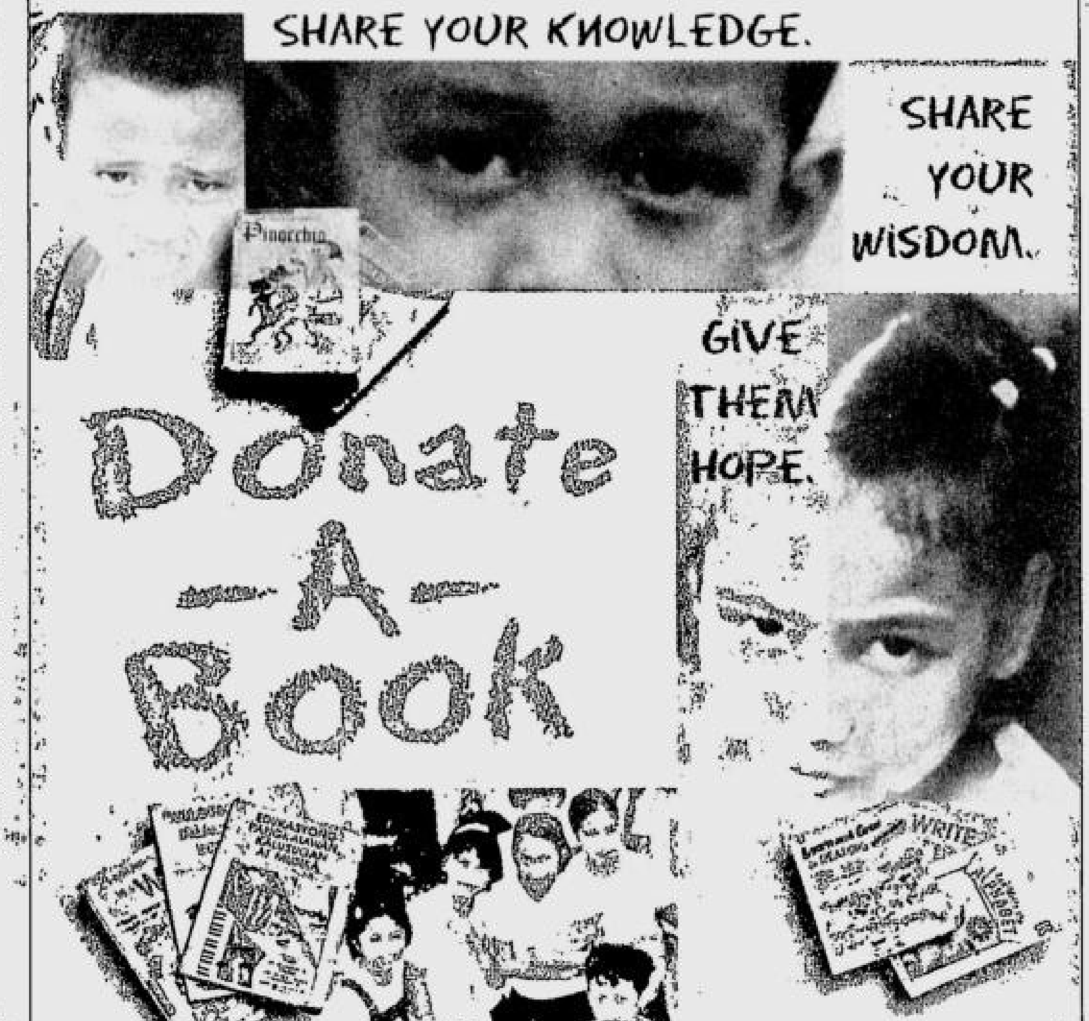
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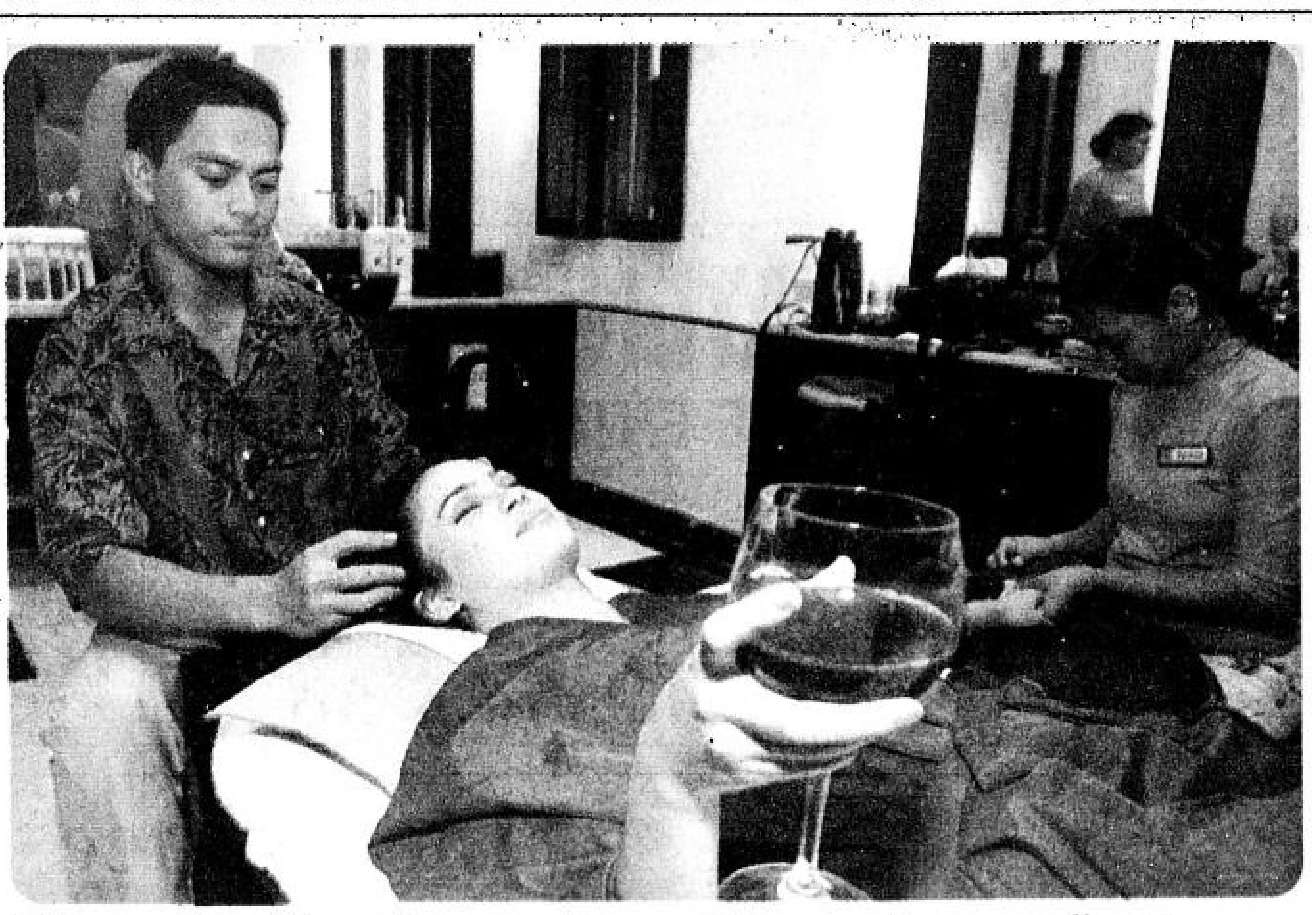


BEING pampered by Emphasis' efficient staff

One of television's prettiest faces is terribly insecure about her looks. Humility truly becomes Kristine Hermosa

to be young • to be you • to be
2b U!
To be you!

A day in the beauty salon

(From page D1)

can even find time to sleep. In fact, the afternoon the interview was held, she just came from the Sunday show "Asap." Before that she went to the shoot of "Pangako Sa 'Yo," which was an all-nighter tha ended at 8 a.m. I could not help feeling guilty about asking questions since going to the salon is a rare treat for her. It was a bit disconcerting to interview while she is obviously enjoying a foot massage.

"Most of the location shoot for 'Pangako' is out of town so if my call time is at 9 a.m., I have to wake up at 4," she tells us. Someone comes to dry and fix her hair. And since she plays a helper in the soap opera, she barely wears makeup. "Only a little powder so I won't look oily," she adds, while trying not to get tickled as one of Emphasis' expert masseuses attend to her feet.

This great beauty, unbelievably, does not require high maintenance. "I don't even have the time to have hot oil treatment at the salon. I do my own at home with my mom's help," she says. The constant hair blowing and drying that she has to go through every day is compensated by daily hot oil treatments at home. Kristine, together with leading man Jericho Rosales, rushes to the dermatologist (they share the same doctor) on those rare occasions when their shooting gets packed up early. "*Basta pag may* free time," she adds.

On the set, she uses and applies her own makeup. On a regular day and when she only has interviews or mall shows to do, she does her own makeup. But on other occasions like shows, pictorials and TV appearances, she leaves it up to the hands of professionals. "Every day, putting on makeup is one thing that has always been done to me in five years that I have been in business. I learned *na rin* just by watching," she says proudly.

She sometimes splurges on makeup which she considers as an investment. Kristine rarely has the time to buy makeup and almost always ends up asking others to buy for her. She has quite a collection of lipsticks and, of course, eye shadow, which she needs for the job. She favors light pinkish shades especially with lipstick and nail polish. In fact, she took her sweet time choosing the right kind of polish when the attendant at Emphasis began to do her nails. Kristine's ultimate makeup favorite is the popular Japanese brand, Shu Uemura. She wants to have rosy cheeks all the time so if there is definitely one makeup item she can't live without, it is cream blush which she gets from The Body Shop.

In jest, Kristine says that should the time come for her to quit show biz, she can always earn a living as a makeup artist, with all the makeup she has bought over the years. It is doubtful though that Kristine will ever end up as one. It is often said that she has the makings of the next Vilma Santos or Dawn Zulueta—great beauties whose acting skills are directly proportional to their looks.

Does she ever forget to remove her makeup? "Sometimes I do, to be honest. *Pero* okay *lang* because my skin is not so sensitive and I really make it a point to clean up *naman*," she says with a laugh. Kristine says that she uses St. Ives' cream to remove stubborn makeup, and she "always moisturizes."

Beauty sleep (or just good old plain eight hours' sleep) is another luxury for her since her days and nights are filled with work. When she has nothing to do, she can't afford to sleep and be lazy at home since they don't have a helper so she has to help out in the chores. Obviously, she stops being a star once she sets foot on the doormat of their home.

With all the accolades and praises she has received for her talent and most especially for her looks, it was surprising to find out that she seems still insecure about her looks. It's flattering, she says, when people compliment her looks but this does not mean she walks around feeling smug. Despite her glorious looks, she is just like any typical adolescent—still a little awkward, still not so self-assured. On certain days, she gets irritated at what she sees in the mirror and wishes she looked like Julia Roberts, Salma Hayek or Mariah Carey. When we pointed out that she looks way better than the latter, she insisted the popular American songbird is "very pretty and sexy." She is so in awe of her idols that when we pointed out to her that she herself is an object of admiration, she was momentarily taken aback, as if the idea has not really sunk in.

Does Kristine get affected by all the competition and jealousy that's prevalent in show biz? Just like intrigues which she has learned to accept as part of the job, she has learned to brush off rumors that other fellow actresses are getting jealous of her. "I admire a lot of people but I don't get jealous of them so I really don't understand why there are people who would be jealous of me," she explains. If there is a downside to looking good, it is the fact that people brand her as snobbish or worse, a flirt. Some even go to the extent of saying that "*maganda lang siya.*" Although she didn't elaborate, I could tell this was one issue that brought creases to her forehead. It was either that or the momentary pain leg waxing brings.

You would think that she would have a bevy of suitors ready and willing to be at her beck and call. But she rarely has the time to entertain them. It is also another aspect wherein being the way she is has become a setback. "Sometimes I wonder if all they like about me is the fact that I'm an actress. I don't want to be a trophy girlfriend. Sometimes I wonder if they are just interested because they want the three-letter word," she says. But there are times she thinks the opposite. "Any guy would be lucky to have me," she adds with characteristic adolescent vacillation.

Her mom is not so strict when it comes to having a boyfriend. "It really boils down to my decision. Even if they don't want me to have a BF, if I really want to, I can find a way or I can keep it a secret," she enthuses. Her road manager and I laughed and teased her that she's a bad girl. "I'm telling you the truth! But you know what? I want to be ready, emotionally ready when I have a BF. And now, I am not and I really don't have time *pa*. I'm so busy," she clarifies.

And when that time does come for her to have a boyfriend, she says she would not want to go out with a cute guy. "Feeling *ko lahat ng* cute guys *manloloko*," she says jokingly. When we berated her for her rather sweeping generalization about good-looking guys, she ignored us, adding, "I don't want people to think that we are just a couple because we look cute and good together!" Dreamily she declares that she wants someone "*mabait*," someone who loves her for who she is, not because she looks good or she's a star. Someone who has breeding and good family background will also score highly in her list.

She could not answer directly when asked if there was a brewing romance between her and her soap opera leading man. But when I mentioned that Jericho was truly admirable since he declared in another interview that one of the reasons he is working so hard is so he can provide for his family when he gets married someday. "See! That's what I like in a guy! Someone who will take care of me. Someone who plans for the future."

Future beauty queen?

For quite some time, people have been encouraging her to join Bb. Pilipinas. But Kristine says joining the contest is not part of her plans for the future. She is honest enough to admit that the pressure on her will be worse. "People will surely talk about me. I get enough as it is. And if I don't win they'll blame me. It's okay if I get criticized for my acting. But for the way I look—I'll be honest, *kahit sino naman 'di ba*, will get hurt?" she shares.

Speaking of beauty contests, I could not help but ask her one of those generic beauty contest questions. So what is her definition of a beautiful person? "Someone who is more beautiful on the inside rather than the outside. A beautiful person is someone who never forgets to say thanks to the Lord for all the blessings," she declares.

She was a picture of bliss and relaxation as her treatments were finished. She looked like she wished the foot massage and the pampering she got from the attendants at Emphasis would never cease. There was a genuine happy smile on her face as she stared at her nails and feet. Okay, so maybe it was a bit *mababaw* but as she says, "I don't even know when I'll ever have the time to do this again."

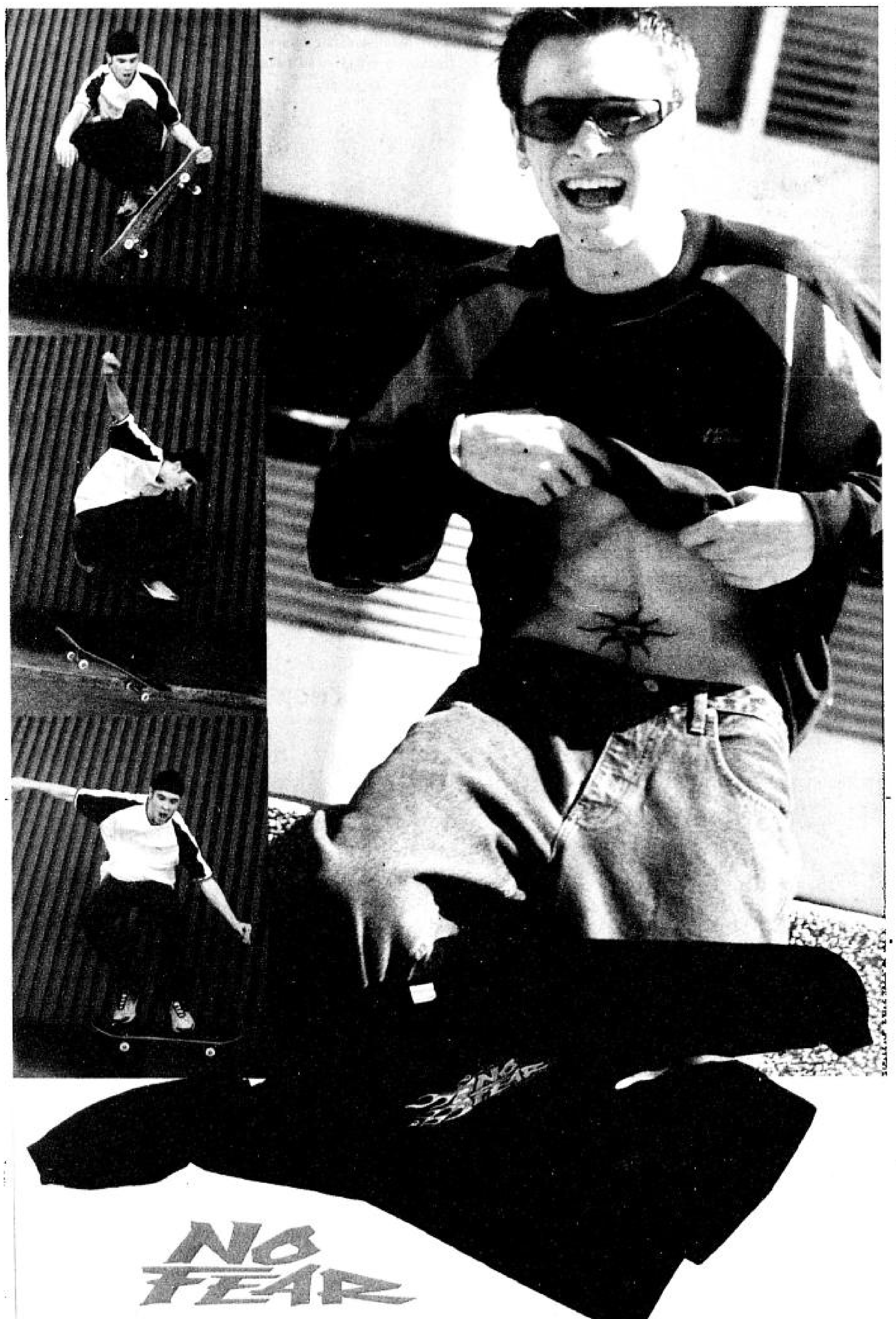
Emphasis is located at Rockwell Information Center, Estrella corner Amapola Streets, Makati City, tel. 898-0818/19.

Visit "Pangako Sa'Yo's" website on www.abs-cbn.com to download episodes that you have missed, behind-the-scenes footages, etc.

E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com

A RARE treat for Kristine: manicure...

... AND foot massage



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at the
boys' teens wear
department

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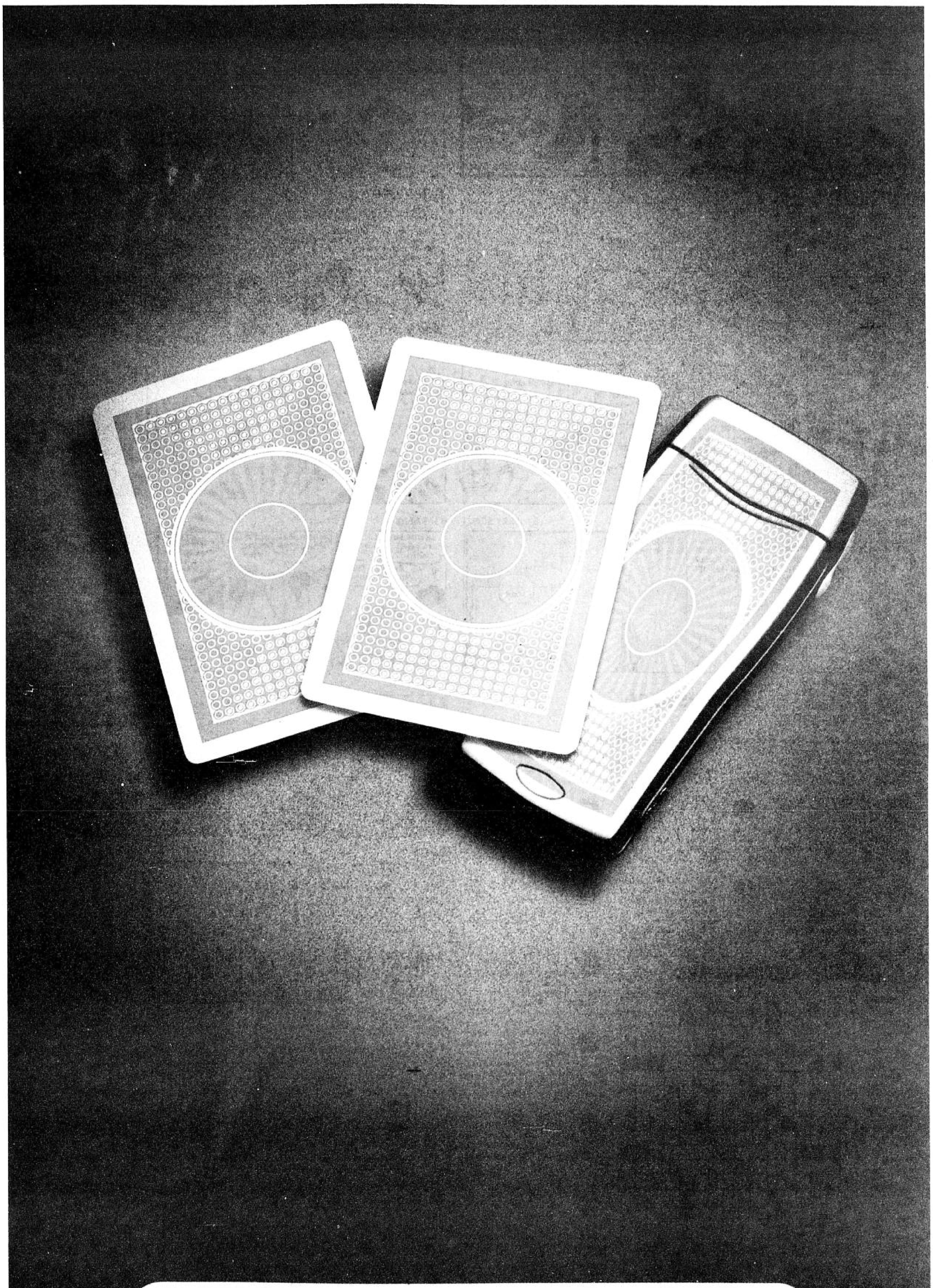
MANILA • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA.MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • ILOILO • CEBU



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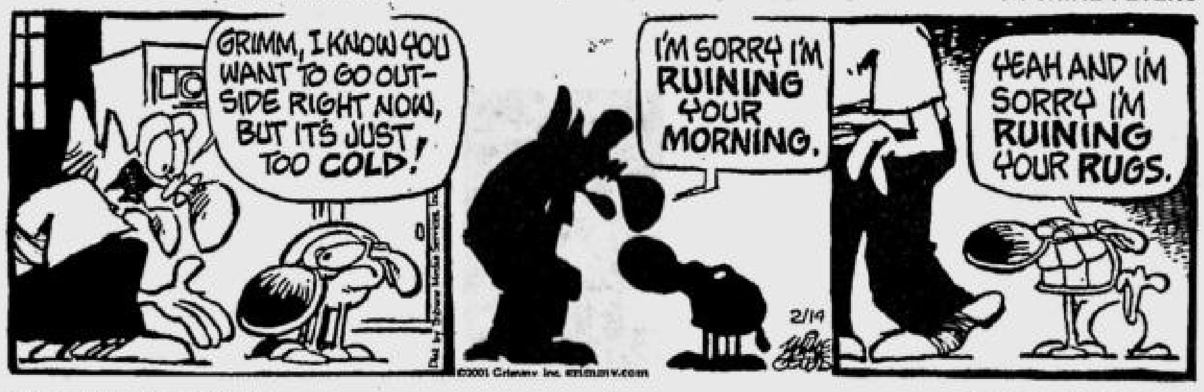
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, I KNOW YOU WANT TO GO OUT-SIDE RIGHT NOW, BUT IT'S JUST TOO COLD!
I'M SORRY I'M RUINING YOUR MORNING.
YEAH AND I'M SORRY I'M RUINING YOUR RUGS.
2/14
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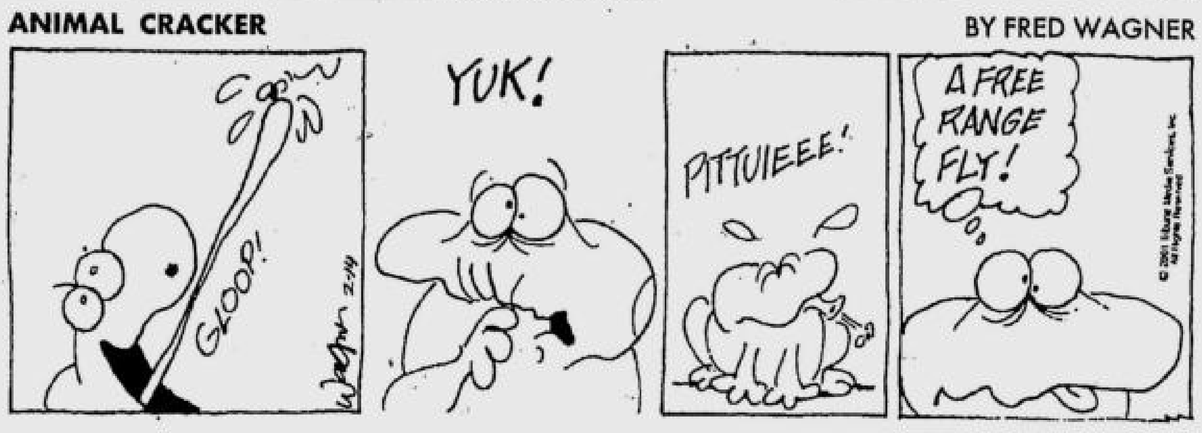
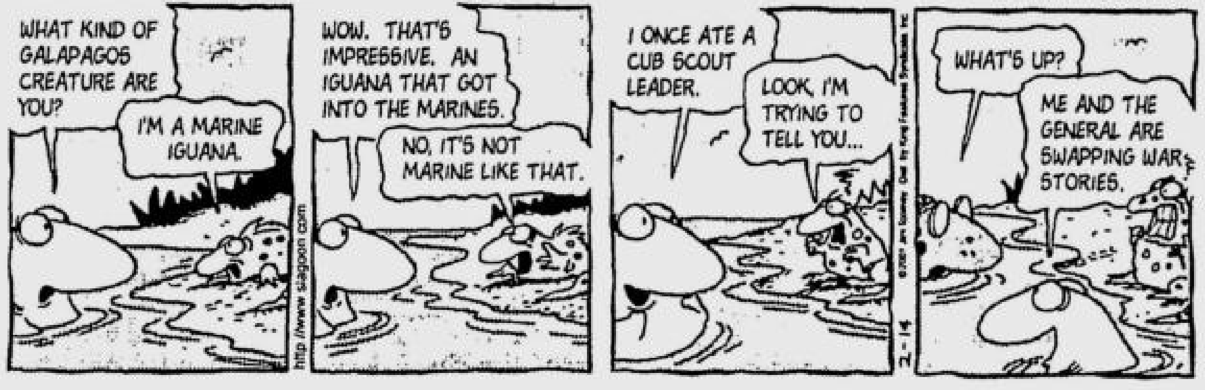
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


GLOOP!
YUK!
PITTUIEEE!
A FREE RANGE FLY!
2-14

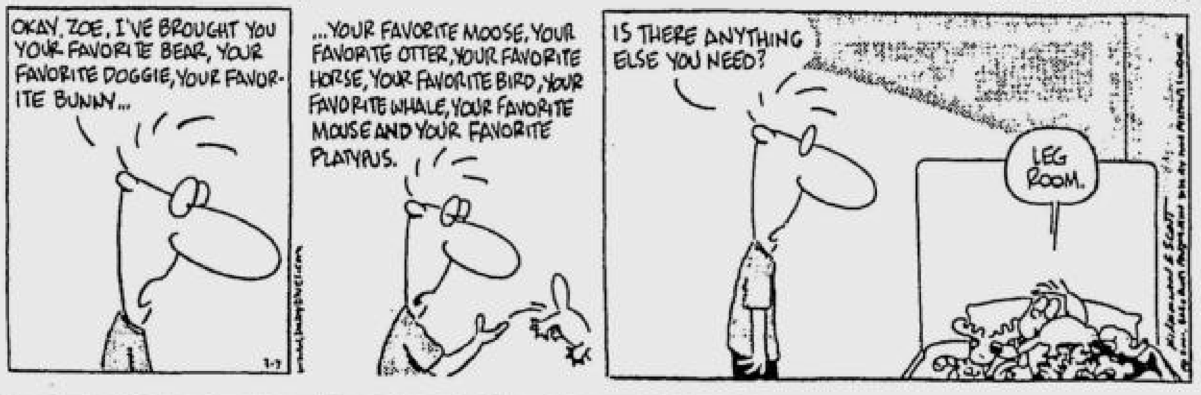
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT KIND OF GALAPAGOS CREATURE ARE YOU?
I'M A MARINE IGUANA.
WOW. THAT'S IMPRESSIVE. AN IGUANA THAT GOT INTO THE MARINES.
NO, IT'S NOT MARINE LIKE THAT.
I ONCE ATE A CUB SCOUT LEADER.
LOOK, I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU...
WHAT'S UP?
ME AND THE GENERAL ARE SWAPPING WAR STORIES.
http://www.slagoon.com
2-14

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY, ZOE, I'VE BROUGHT YOU YOUR FAVORITE BEAR, YOUR FAVORITE DOGGIE, YOUR FAVOR-ITE BUNNY...
...YOUR FAVORITE MOOSE, YOUR FAVORITE OTTER, YOUR FAVORITE HORSE, YOUR FAVORITE BIRD, YOUR FAVORITE WHALE, YOUR FAVORITE MOUSE AND YOUR FAVORITE PLATYPUS.
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED?
LEG ROOM.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dianne Wiest, Reba McEntire, Vince Vaughn, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Sen. Edmund Muskie, Conchata Ferrell, Julia Stiles

Happy Birthday: Your high energy and enthusiasm will be greatly appreciated and put to good use this year. You will be admired for your vision and ability to run with your ideas. Detailed work will enable you to be that much better than the competition. You will have the strength and fortitude to make the changes that will turn your life around. Your numbers: 15, 19, 23, 26, 39, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get involved in financial ventures. Turn your ideas into cash. You may find that peers misunderstand your intentions. Don't make personal changes without doing enough research.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let anyone manipulate you. It's time you started thinking about the people you've allowed into your life. Some of them have not acted to your advantage. Weigh the pros and cons.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Opportunities to get ahead financially are evident. Your luck will run high and your ability to take advantage of moneymaking investments will prove to be lucrative. Follow your instincts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let anyone stand in your way. If you believe in something, by all means follow it through to the end. If your partner really cares, he or she will stand behind your decision.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't become involved intimately with colleagues or employers. Gossip can damage your reputation and lead to a definite professional setback. Look out for your best interests.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have excellent ideas for ways to further your career or business interests. Don't let emotions affect productivity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't sign anything unless you completely understand the repercussions. It is best to hold tight and observe what everyone else is doing. Talk to those with experience.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be in trouble with your lover if you refuse to compromise. Don't let friends lead you in the wrong direction. You have to make your own decision about your personal future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will have wonderful ideas. Be careful not to let too many in on your plans. Someone you least suspect may be trying to steal your thunder.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will probably find yourself interested in more than one person. Don't make a move. Your confusion has caused this dilemma, and it is wise to back away and reassess the situation.

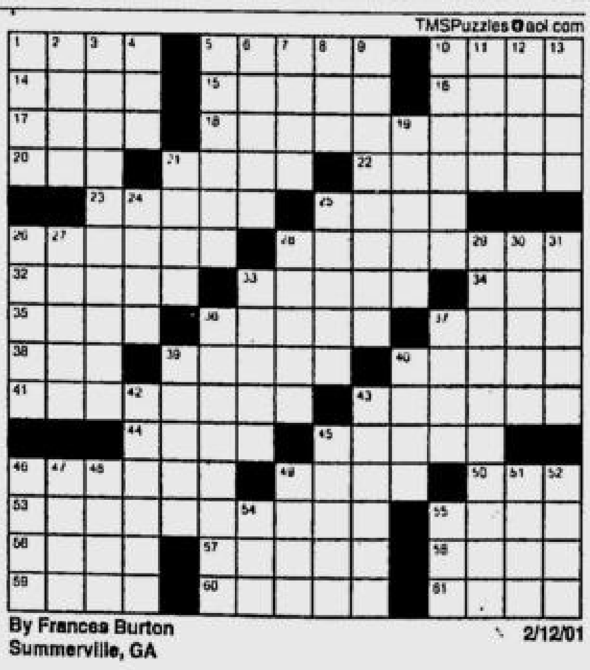
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Expect to face opposition if you push your opinions on others. Focus on constructive improvements at home rather than trying to change the house rules. Depression is likely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Concentrate on small but important details. You will be rewarded for your personal touches on any project that you are involved in. It is a good idea to work quietly by yourself.

Birthday Baby: You have an eye for quality. You are creative, active and like to be in the middle of everything. You are clever, unique and interested in the unfamiliar and unusual.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

2/12/01

ACROSS
1 Olympian Lipinski
5 Bivouacs
10 Ground grain
14 By mouth
15 WWII menace
16 __ mater
17 Domesticate
18 Hit by The Shirelles
20 Recede
21 Tater
22 Tuck and his ilk
23 Restrict
25 Greenspan of the Fed
26 Flew without propulsion
28 Omens
32 Extend a subscription
33 Core group
34 Shrill bark
35 Weapons
36 Acts down in the dumps
37 Until
38 Long scarf
39 Poe's bird
40 Beginning
41 More heartfelt
43 Woodland deities
44 Singer Redding
45 "Presumed Innocent" author Scott
46 Yearbook
49 Tillis and Torme
50 Sculling tool
53 Hit by The Seekers
55 Arsenal cache
56 Goofs
57 Scandinavians
58 Neighbor of Vietnam
59 Vague amount
60 "Skittle Players" painter
61 Very black

DOWN
1 Lug
2 Part of U.A.R.
3 Allman Brothers Band hit
4 Beer choice
5 Canine
6 Approximately
7 Foundry form
8 Tablet
9 Suppressors
10 Docking facility
11 Isle near Corsica
12 Love of Don Quixote?
13 Puts down
19 Wipe out
21 Old World duck
24 __ of March
25 "As You Like It" forest
26 Seizes
27 "Slave Ship" author Jones
28 Wall covering
29 Brian Hyland hit
30 "The Purple People __"
31 Recognizes
33 Small bays
36 French and Horne
37 Do-others separator
39 Mark new prices
40 Rowboat requirement
42 Curriculum element
43 Morose
45 Brief
46 Ripens
47 Sleuth Wolfe
48 Comic Crosby
49 Bog
51 Wildly out of control
52 Cheerful
54 Obtained
55 Actress MacGraw

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

N	A	R	R	A	T	I	V	E	■	B	L	O	C	H
A	R	E	A	C	O	D	E	S	■	L	A	U	R	A
P	E	S	T	E	R	E	R	S	■	A	S	T	O	R
H	A	H	■	■	N	O	V	A	K	S	■	W	A	S
T	R	I	E	S	■	■	E	Y	E	T	E	E	T	H
H	U	N	G	A	R	Y	■	■	A	S	S	A	I	L
A	G	E	G	R	O	U	P	S	■	■	P	R	A	Y
■	■	■	■	A	T	L	E	A	S	T	■	■	■	■
P	O	L	E	■	■	E	A	G	E	R	N	E	S	S
A	D	A	G	E	S	■	■	S	T	O	O	L	I	E
J	A	P	O	N	I	C	A	■	■	D	W	E	L	T
A	L	L	■	T	R	I	B	E	S	■	■	V	E	T
M	I	A	M	I	■	G	A	L	L	S	T	O	N	E
A	S	T	E	R	■	A	S	S	U	R	A	N	C	E
S	K	A	T	E	■	R	E	A	R	O	U	S	E	S

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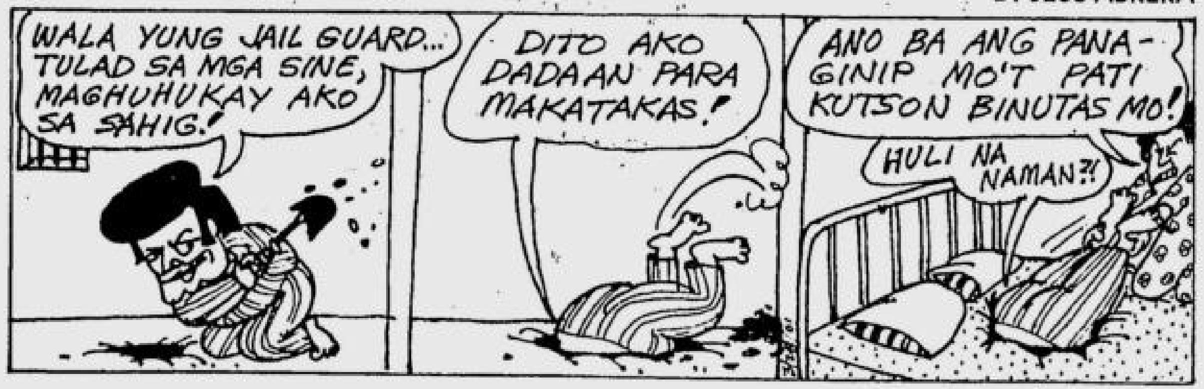
2/12/01

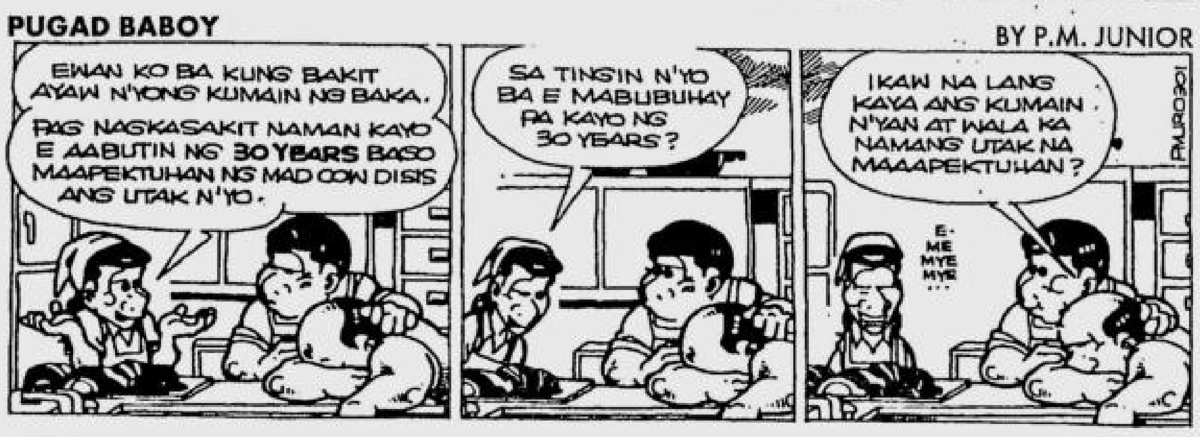
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WALA YUNG JAIL GUARD... TULAD SA MGA SINE, MAGHUHUKAY AKO SA SAHIG!
DITO AKO DADAAN PARA MAKATAKAS!
ANO BA ANG PANA-GINIP MO'T PATI KUTSON BINUTAS MO!
HULI NA NAMAN?!

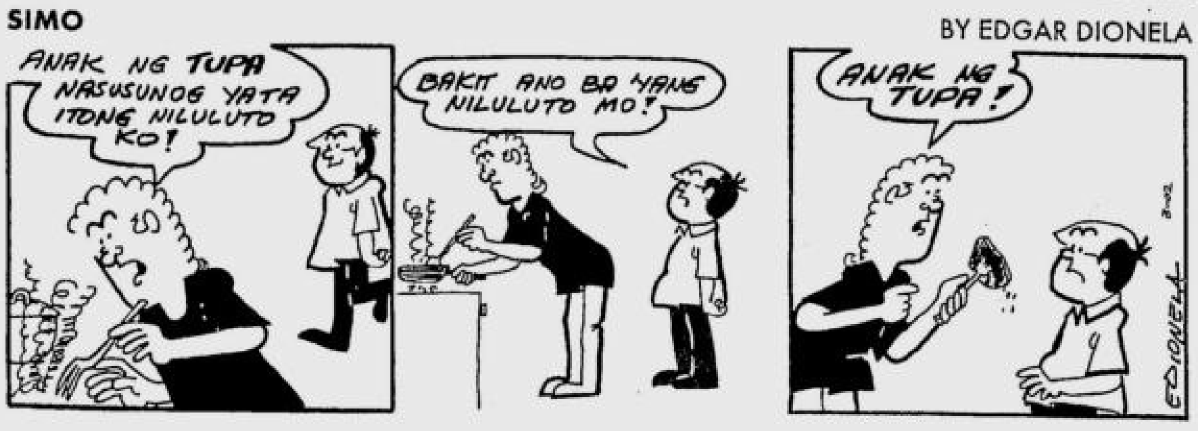
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


EWAN KO BA KUNG BAKIT AYAW N'YONG KUMAIN NG BAKA.
PAG NAGKASAKIT NAMAN KAYO E AABUTIN NG 30 YEARS BAGO MAAPEKTUHAN NG MAD COW DISIS ANG UTAK N'YO.
SA TINGIN N'YO BA E MABUBUHAY PA KAYO NG 30 YEARS?
IKAW NA LANG KAYA ANG KUMAIN N'YAN AT WALA KA NAMANG UTAK NA MAAAPEKTUHAN?
E-ME MYE MYE...
PMJR0301

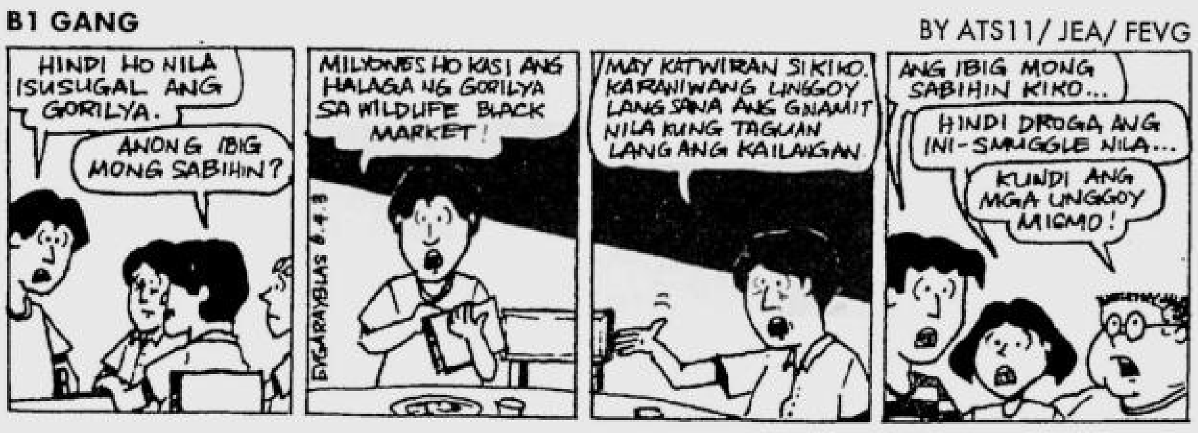
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANAK NG TUPA NASUSUNOG YATA ITONG NILULUTO KO!
BAKIT ANO BA 'YANG NILULUTO MO?
ANAK NG TUPA!
EDIONELA

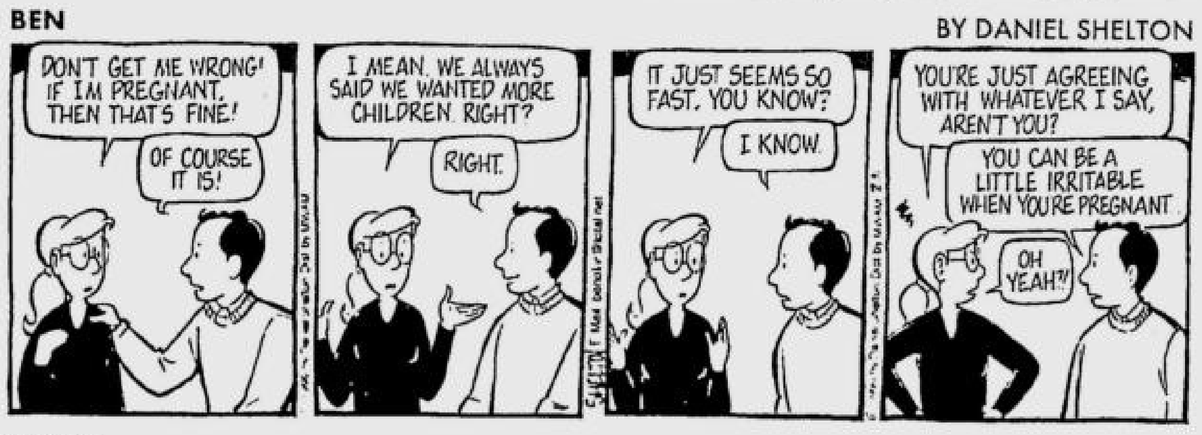
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


HINDI HO NILA ISUSUGAL ANG GORILYA.
ANONG IBIG MONG SABIHIN?
MILYONES HO KASI ANG HALAGA NG GORILYA SA WILDLIFE BLACK MARKET!
MAY KATWIRAN SI KIKO. KARANIWANG UNGGOY LANG SANA ANG GINAMIT NILA KUNG TAGUAN LANG ANG KAILANGAN.
ANG IBIG MONG SABIHIN KIKO...
HINDI DROGA ANG INI-SMUGGLE NILA...
KUNDI ANG MGA UNGGOY MISMO!

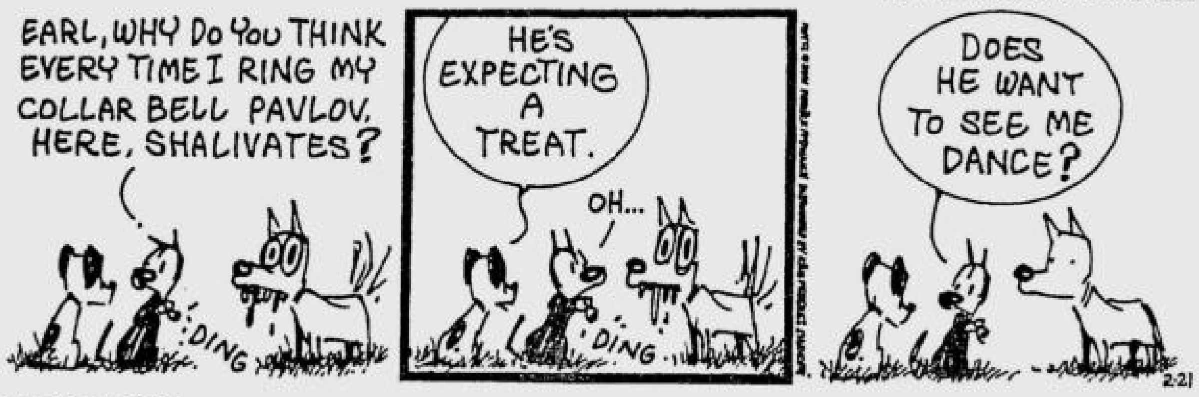
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DON'T GET ME WRONG! IF I'M PREGNANT, THEN THAT'S FINE!
OF COURSE IT IS!
I MEAN, WE ALWAYS SAID WE WANTED MORE CHILDREN, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
IT JUST SEEMS SO FAST, YOU KNOW?
I KNOW.
YOU'RE JUST AGREEING WITH WHATEVER I SAY, AREN'T YOU?
YOU CAN BE A LITTLE IRRITABLE WHEN YOU'RE PREGNANT.
OH YEAH?!

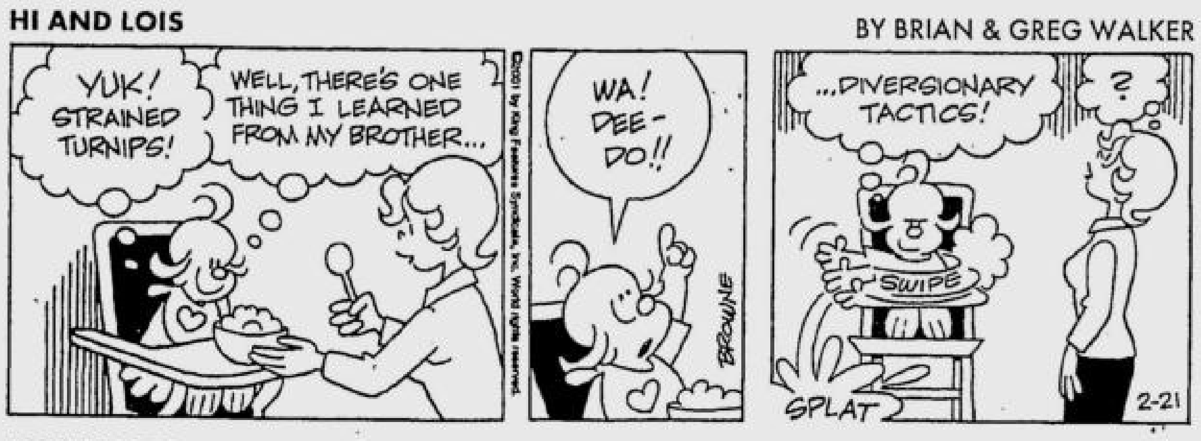
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL, WHY DO YOU THINK EVERY TIME I RING MY COLLAR BELL PAVLOV, HERE, SHALIVATES?
DING
HE'S EXPECTING A TREAT.
OH...
DING
DOES HE WANT TO SEE ME DANCE?
2-21

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


YUK! STRAINED TURNIPS!
WELL, THERE'S ONE THING I LEARNED FROM MY BROTHER...
WA! DEE-DO!!
...DIVERSIONARY TACTICS!
?
SWIPE
SPLAT
2-21
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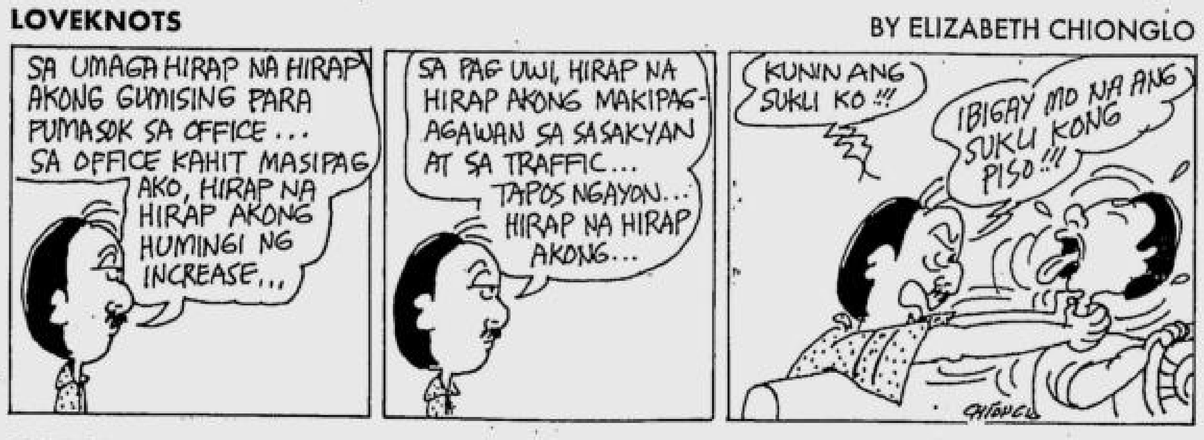
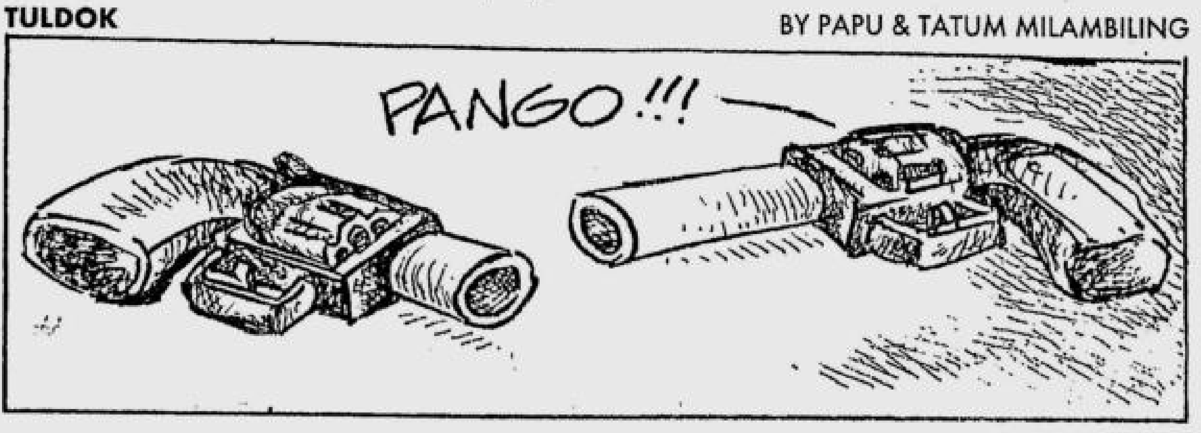
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

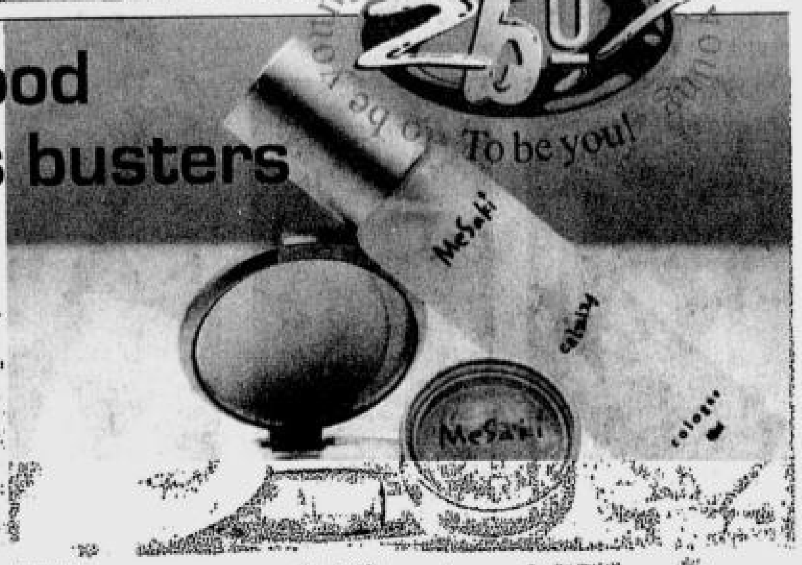

SA UMAGA HIRAP NA HIRAP AKONG GUMISING PARA PUMASOK SA OFFICE... SA OFFICE KAHIT MASIPAG AKO, HIRAP NA HIRAP AKONG HUMINGI NG INCREASE...
SA PAG UWI, HIRAP NA HIRAP AKONG MAKIPAG-AGAWAN SA SASAKYAN AT SA TRAFFIC... TAPOS NGAYON... HIRAP NA HIRAP AKONG...
KUNIN ANG SUKLI KO!!!
IBIGAY MO NA ANG SUKLI KONG PISO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



Look and feel good with new stress busters



IN THEIR own little world, teens have to put up with a host of never-ending pressures. There's family issues (parents fighting or separating, illness), school-related questions (academic pressures, picking the right college, choosing a course), peer pressure (fitting in), relationships (falling in love for the first time), money problems (balancing job and school, saving money), not to mention the pervasive temptations of addictive substances and an environment of increasing violence. Even technology is proving to be a source of stress: Teens have to contend with information overload in an increasingly digital world.

Unfortunately, most antistress products available in the market cater to adults and are sold at premium prices beyond the reach of the average teen.

Here's good news from Consumer Insights, a new firm in the country which is owned and managed by young couple Paolo and Grace Castaño.

Now available in the local market is MeSaki, the first and only anti-stress skincare line targeted specifically at teens. MeSaki (which means "my future"—a combination of English and Japanese) offers teens antistress relief in their regular skincare regimen.

MeSaki is a line of face powders, lip glosses and colognes with stress-relief ingredients such as aroma therapeutic fragrances. The products have a cooling effect, help relieve stress and clears the mind.

""It does not only help make you look good but it also helps you feel good," says Castaño, a marketing expert who, before setting up Consumer Insights, held two top concurrent posts as vice president for Asean and general manager for Indonesia in one of the country's leading multinational firms specializing in teen products. She, however, points out that MeSaki, per se, is not a therapeutic brand. It aims to transform teenagers' skincare regimen into a stress-relief ritual.

The face powder has menthol, which refreshes the skin. It comes in three variants —Awakening, Stimulating and Calming. The face powder also absorbs excess oil, helping to prevent pimples. It also has an SPF 15 sunscreen.

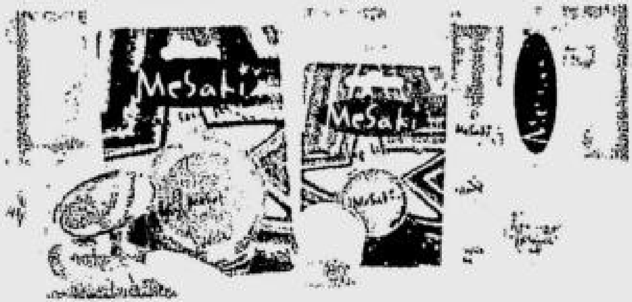
The lip shine comes in three aromatic variants: Green Apple, Jelly Bean and Bubble Gum. Each has an appealing aroma and flavor teens like, with a smooth, balmy formula that soothes the lips and helps prevent chapping.

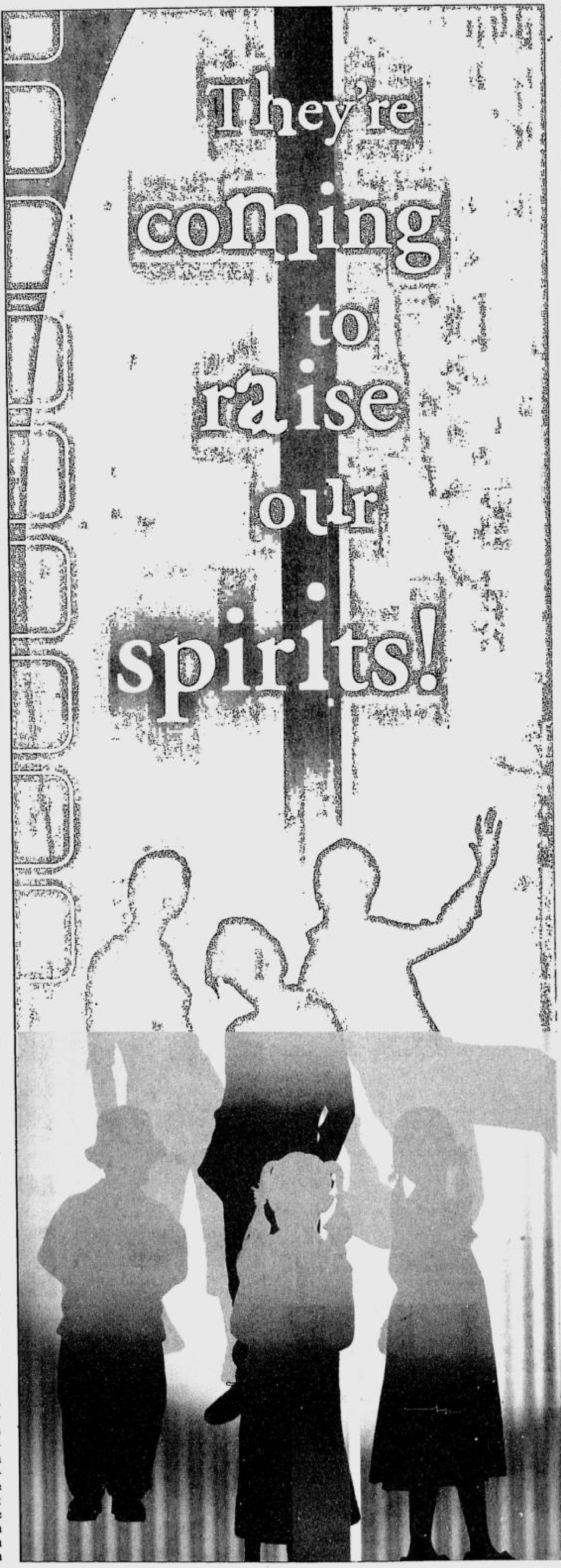
The cologne spray comes in three scents: Awakening, which help a teen prepare for her day; Stimulating, to give her a boost; and Calming, for winding down.

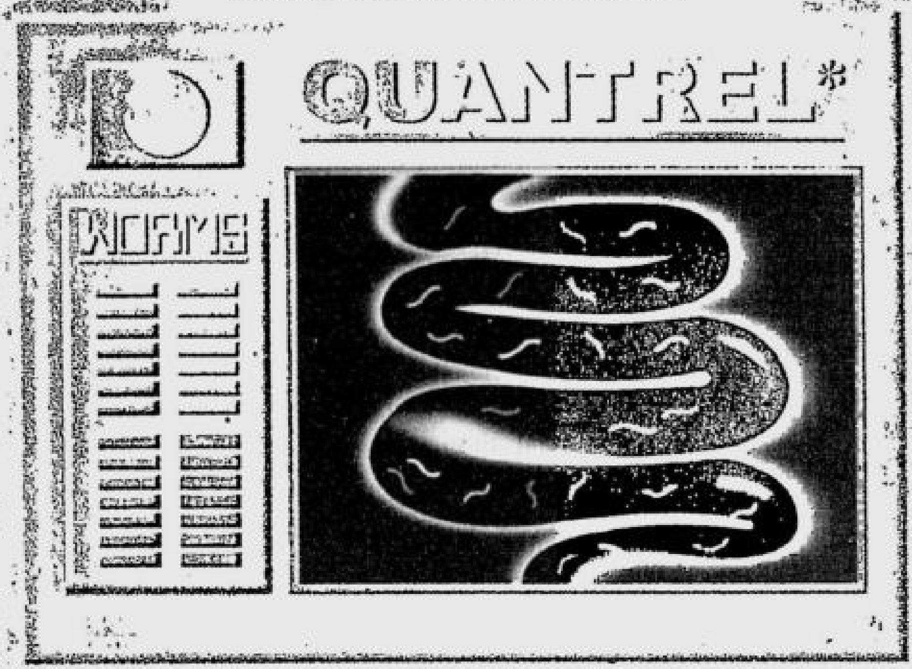
Each product is attractively packaged in teen-friendly colors and designs. Compacts, pots and bottles come in a silver-and-frost scheme, with a star as focal design element. Formulas have opaque pastel colors: lavender, baby blue and mint. There's a cute, embossed star in the middle of each face-powder cake and silver glitter scattered throughout the lip shine. The instructions at the back of the cardboard packaging speak directly to teens: "It's anti-stress, girl!" "Chill."

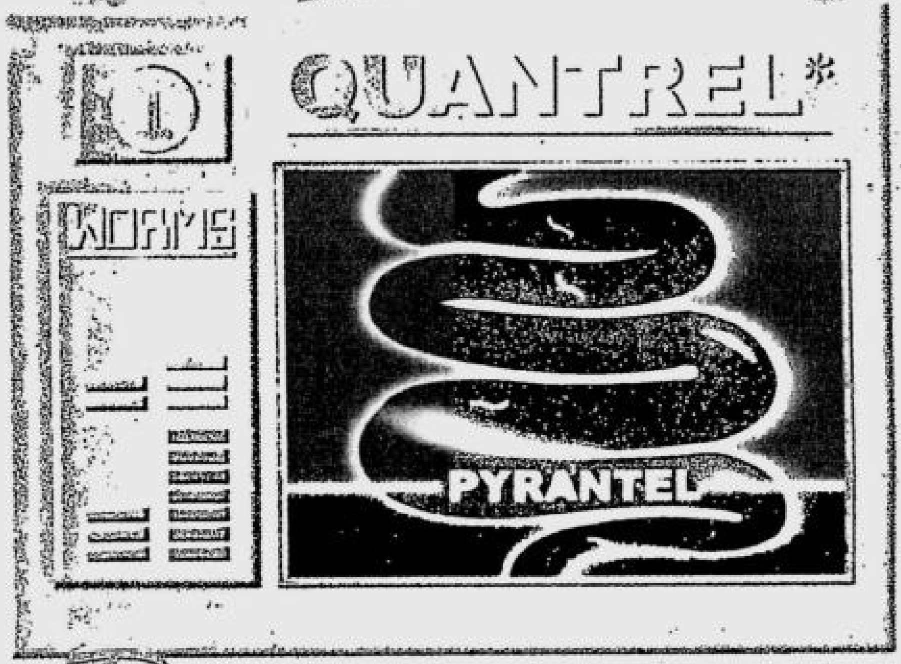
Each product comes in small sizes that teens can easily manage and put in their purses or daintily small handbags.

MeSaki is available at the Beauty Bar, SM Health & Beauty Stores, Rustan's Department Stores and Supermarkets and selected Robinsons Malls.

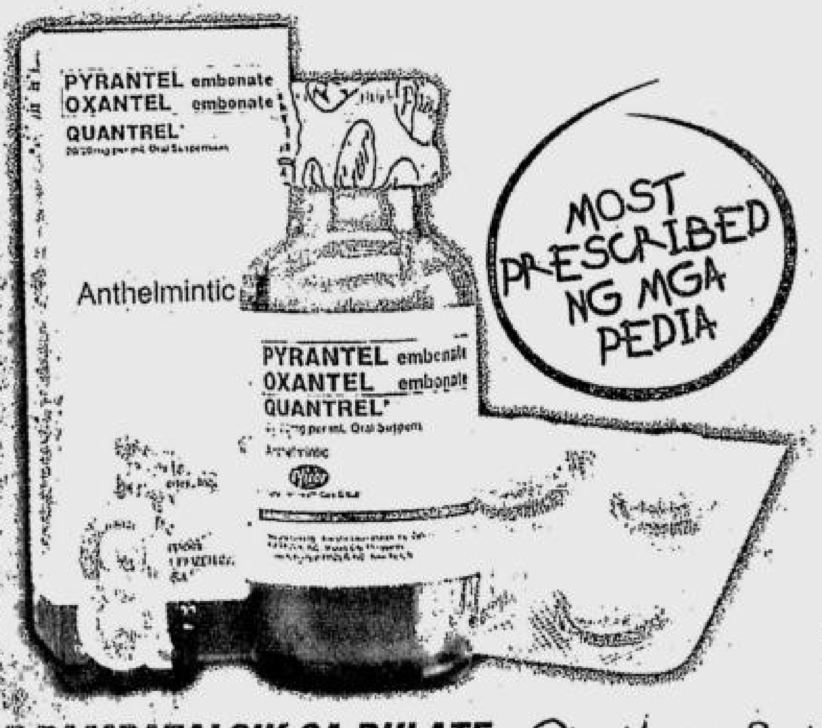



They're coming to raise our spirits!

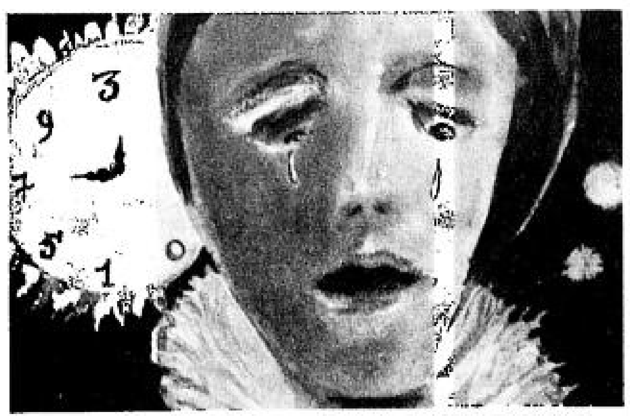




QUANTREL*
WORMS
OXANTEL



Introducing
PYRANTEL embonate
OXANTEL embonate
QUANTREL*
Ang DOBLE Pampatalsik sa Bulate na Gentle sa Bata
Puksain ang bulate with its clinically-tested two ingredients.
ONE, sa Pyrantel, talsik ang mga karaniwang bulate.
TWO, sa Oxantel, talsik ang karamihan sa mga natira pa. Mas maraming uri ang napupuksa.
DOB2E PAMPATALSIK SA BULATE. Gentle sa Bata.
PFIZER made it! Consumer Healthcare Division
Available without prescription.
Always read label directions. If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.
*Trademark of Pfizer, Inc., New York, N.Y., U.S.A. Reg. Phil. Pat. Off.



TEARJERKER. Valeria Cavestany's timeless works on exhibit at Estilo

PHOTOS BY EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO

IT'S "CARNAVAL" season for Joampi and Laura Bertoto, Dr. Ernie Santos, Anton Barretto and Leah Puyat

HALTER STOP! Fuchsia leopard prints for summer

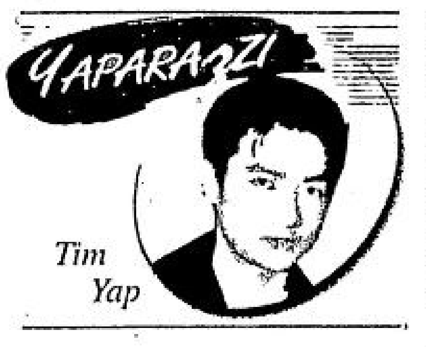
STRING SENSATION Tabu Black wraparound on Dottie Benedicto

BUTTERCUP bandeau on Nicolette

ITSY bitsy teeny weeny aqua blue bikini that she wore for the second time today.

GYRATING juggler opens Estilo's "Carnaval" season.

The carnival starts



Tim Yap

CHANGE is good. Manila young society shuns boredom and digs variety, a mix that gives plenty of space for refreshing and dynamic ideas.

It's either new or old. Fabulous or tired.

Amid the past week's perennial parade of headlines about the special election registration, stolen Marcos billions and film repression by pastors ostensibly crusading against pornography, a private procession of people, places and parties quietly inched its way into the scene's social calendar.

Live show

FIRST on the list was the breathtaking bikini barrage of über model-veejay-entrepreneur **Amanda Griffin** and business partner **Isabel Engwa**'s Aussie swimsuit line Tabu at Stars bar.

One by one, X-pose agency models strutted down the ramp in a holiday hodgepodge of sophisticated, eye-catching prints and stunning, solid-colored swimwear, with bags and beads supplied by dusky diva **Tweety de Leon-Gonzalez** and **Mia Legarda**.

The Tag Heuer-, Planet Sports- and Nivea Sun Spray-sponsored event was hosted by Channel [V] veejay **Mike Zerrudo** and **Bianca Araneta**, whose Little Miracles Foundation (a charity aimed at educating street children) was main beneficiary.

With a little good intention and a lot of jaw-dropping swimsuits, Tabu's recent fashion show proved to be a truly inspiring affair.

Al Estilo del Carnaval!

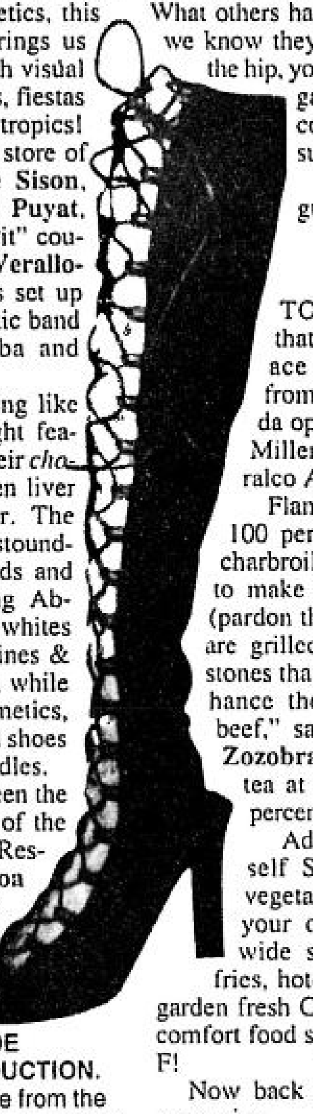
THE FOLLOWING week, about a hundred guests and a juggler gyrating to blasting Latin beats and were feted at "Al Estilo del Carnaval!" at the chi-chi Rockwell store's Summer 2001 Season launch.

If last season the shop cum café cum atelier cum bar cum gallery (whew!) went in the style of the Orient, with Zen muted colors and enchanting Asian aesthetics, this Summer 2001 Estilo brings us to the "Carnaval!"—with visual images of samba queens, fiestas in Rio, festivities in the tropics!

This shared flagship store of style mavens **Michele Sison**, **Anton Barretto**, **Leah Puyat**, Dr. **Ernie Santos** and "it" couple **Joampi** and **Laura Verallo-Bertoto** had giant tents set up outside, while an acoustic band played mambo, rhumba and cha-cha-cha!

Before I risk sounding like **Becky Garcia**, the night featured fab Latin eats—their *chorizo* spreads and chicken liver paté's were to-die-for. The guests feasted on the astounding assortment of breads and cheeses while downing Absolut martinis, red and whites courtesy of Premier Wines & Spirits. This, of course, while shopping for VMV cosmetics, Michele Sison bags and shoes and Anton Barretto candles.

Of late, Estilo has been the favorite secret hideout of the fashion and chic set. Restaurateur **Malu Gamboa** had her "Sex in the City" themed birthday party here, complete with bubbly cosmos, sexy hunks and sassy girlfriends from her intimate circle. So did TV hostess **Kris Aquino** who had her natal bash there last Valentine's.



SHOE SEDUCTION. Made from the back of a corset, transformed by Michele Sison

What took the "carnival cake" (aside from VMV's launch of their "ambrosia" lipstick) was Estilo's exhibit of young artists—from the breathtaking use of color by painter **Valeria Cavestany** to the diverse yet intimate art works of **Monica Olbes** and **Joanne Zapanta-Andrada**, it was a true showcase of all things beautiful—vivid and vibrant, (never stagnant) full of passion for life!

Viva la vie Carnavale!

Roman holiday

PRIOR to Rio, we came from a Roman centurion fest and gladiator gathering for the second anniversary of hot, hot Il Ponticello.

Each guest was welcomed with gold laurels as mystical sea nymphs served Italian eats to the young A-list crowd composed of Azzurri (Ponti's private lounge) regulars, dignitaries from Alitalia and the Italian embassy who savored the resto-bar's treats for their "Roman food festival."

Costume-clad hosts were Ponti's **Cheryl del Rosario**, **Albert Besa**, **Vince Santos** and **Mark de Jesus**, all busy doing the hop from table to table, toasting their Asti Cinzanos and champagne like there was no tomorrow. Roman indulgence at its finest!

Indeed, they deserve to celebrate. Il Ponticello, in its relatively short existence, has established a definite niche in today's nightscape. They have proven that the marriage between being a great restaurant and a happening bar is indeed possible. What others have failed to do (and we know they're a lot out there), the hip, young Il Ponticello brigade was able to accomplish. And quite successfully at that.

Cheers to you guys!

Mad about burgers

TONIGHT, Flamers, that big, big burger palace which originated from Jacksonville, Florida opens its doors at G/F Millennium Place on Meralco Avenue, Pasig.

Flamers' one-half pound 100 percent Australia beef charbroiled burgers are sure to make us mad about cow (pardon the pun). "Its burgers are grilled over hot volcanic stones that cook faster and enhance the natural flavor of beef," says spokesman **Bob Zozobrado** over afternoon tea at the Shang. "It's 30 percent less fattening, too."

Add to that Top it Yourself Sandwich Bar with vegetables and sidings of your own choice, plus a wide selection of sloppy fries, hotdogs, cheese steaks, garden fresh Caesar's salads mean comfort food spelled with a capital F!

Now back to our regular programming.

F! Post anniversary shindig and others

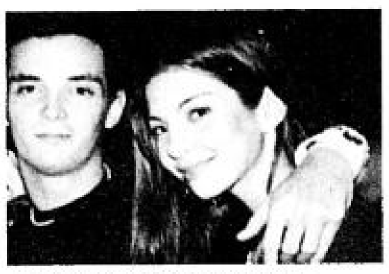
SPEAKING of that "F" word, all roads lead to Venezia tomorrow as they launch their Happy Hour party series with the post-anniversary party of "F!"—that tantalizing magazine TV show hosted by **Angel Aquino**, **Cher Calvin** and **Daphne Osena**.

On Friday, Seattle's Best at Rockwell formally opens. So if you want a dose of mouth-watering coffee concoctions, this is the place to be—if you don't mind being perky all night.

On the wings of change is local vibe.com, now shifting its name to getasia.com.ph, to be unveiled that same night at Republic of Malate.

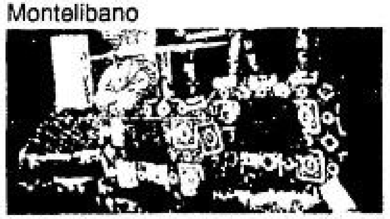
Then on March 31, as a pre-cleansing ritual for Holy Week, why don't you check out the Sambo's foam party? Its also the eve of April Fool's so go ahead and soak yourself!

I'll end this week's outing by quoting Spago's revered Wolfgang Puck. He says, "I am not a historian. I live for today and tomorrow—the most important thing is to evolve."



AMANDA Griffin and Paolo Araneta at Azzurri

"CARNAVAL" SISONS. Mila and Jay Sison with Michelle Montelibano



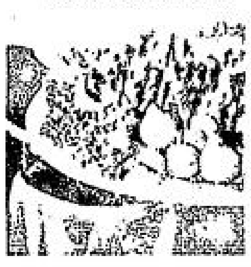
SUSHI and tacos, anyone? Michele Sison's bold printed bags with chopstick handles

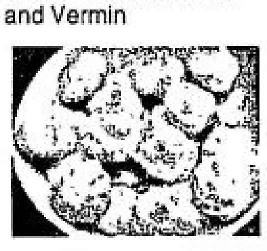
MOTHER AND SON. Designer Michele Sison and Gio

GRACEFUL sophistication from Nicole Fandino and Monica Olbes at Estilo

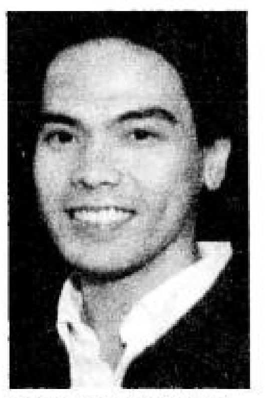
ROMAN treats from Albert Besa

VMV trio Anne, Laura and Vermin





YOUNG design talent Tippi Ocampo



DESIGN genius Jun Jun Ablaza

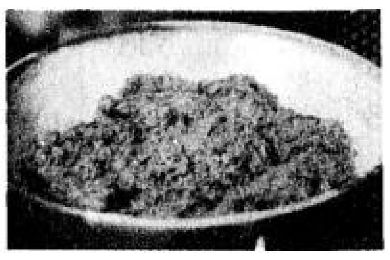
SEPARATED at birth? Lampel Luis and Pepito Albert

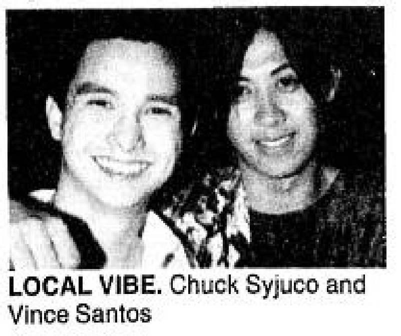
SEEN in style were Marco Protacio and Rajo Laurel

GAY ICONS. Leah Puyat and Tessa Prieto Valdes

HATS and candles from Marissa Andal and Anton Barretto

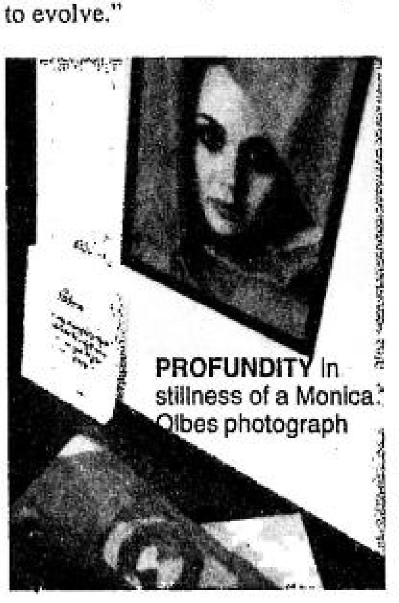
FEATHERS for the samba queen, set amid Estilo throw pillows



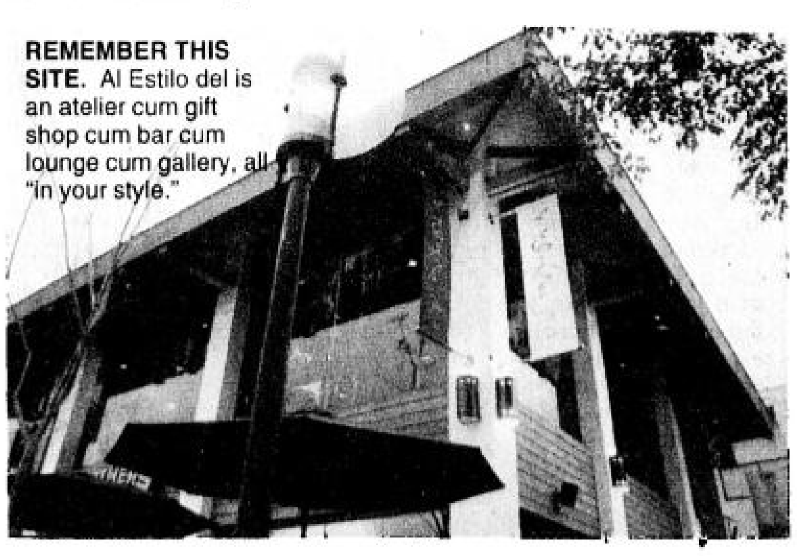


LOCAL VIBE. Chuck Syjuco and Vince Santos

PARTYING at Ponti were Bernice Arsenas and Marco Eduque



PROFUNDITY in stillness of a Monica Olbes photograph



REMEMBER THIS SITE. Al Estilo del is an atelier cum gift shop cum bar cum lounge cum gallery, all "in your style."

Hallmark When you care enough to send the very best. WAVE 89.1 www.wave891.fm 2bU! young • to be you • to be young • To be you! • Lifestyle Teen Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

The Between You and Me "Cardspeak" Contest!

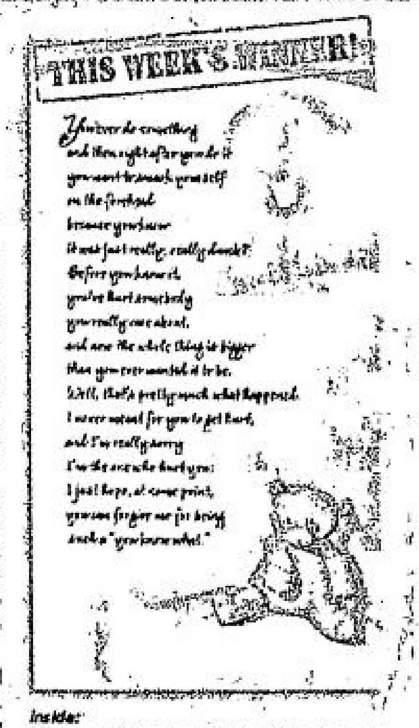
My girlfriend, Asia, and I have subzero in common. She goes loca over Ricky Martin and I like Green Day. She wears leather shoes and I'm comfy with my old sneakers. She likes to dine at fancy restaurants and I like to order in pizza. But I am happy when I'm with her. So I went along when she tried changing me and practically took over my life! Until I realized I was tired of playing her games.

The day I broke up with her, she was crying. I wanted to reach out, hug her and hold her hand. She looked like she really loved me. I wanted so badly to take her back, but I didn't. I love her so much but I also want her to learn to accept me for what I am.

A couple of weeks later, I got a card from her saying she was really sorry. She admitted that she had been acting like a control freak and that she really didn't mean to hurt me. I called her up immediately and told her that I've been freaking out since we broke up! We got back together. Now she tells me that she's starting to get sick of Ricky Martin.

Although she always gives me greeting cards, I think this Between You and Me card is very special. You see, my girlfriend really finds it difficult to say sorry. And when she does, she doesn't usually say it straight out. I guess it's just her personality.

THIS WEEK'S WINNER!



You ever do something
and then right after you do it
you want to smack yourself
on the forehead
because you know
it was just really, really dumb?
Before you know it,
you've hurt somebody
you really care about,
and now the whole thing is bigger
than you ever wanted it to be.
Well, that's pretty much what happened.
I never meant for you to get hurt,
and I'm really sorry
I'm the one who hurt you.
I just hope, at some point,
you can forgive me for being
such a "you know what."

Inside:
you're special to me, and I don't want to mess up the closeness we share.

She couldn't say sorry to my face so she said it through this card. And since this is one rare moment when she finally learned to admit her mistake, I think I'm gonna hang this Between You and Me card on my bedroom wall!

- Miko San Juan
36 Crispulo Aguinaldo St.,
Proj. 4, Q.C. 1109

Congrats Miko!
You and Asia won this!

Let *Hallmark's Between You & Me* do the talking! Send us the most memorable Between You & Me card you received (actual card) and tell us why it means so much to you in 200 words or less. One lucky winner will win two cool *Swatch* watches per week! (One for you and one for the person who sent you the card). Mail your entries to Filstar Distributors Corporation 3/F Team Pacific Bldg. 13 Jose Cruz St. Ugong, Pasig City 1604. Please include your name, address & contact number. *2bU! & Hallmark* will not be responsible for lost, misdirected or late entries. All unclaimed entries will become the property of Filstar. Winners may claim their prizes at the Filstar office. Contest ends May 18, 2001. Catch *Joe D'Mango's Love Notes* every Friday (10:00 am) at *WAVE 89.1* as he reads your favorite Between You & Me cards and every Sunday in Inquirer's Lifestyle section. www.hallmark.com

How to camouflage flaws

Make Over
Kinny Salas

MY sister and I have opposite problems. I have practically no chin while Sandy has a prominent one. We are both very self-conscious about it. We are not thinking of anything as drastic as surgery, but we are hoping you could give us tips on how to camouflage or draw attention away from these flaws (perhaps with the use of makeup.) If it will help, we are both 5'4" and are on the slim side with long hair. Thank you and more power.

JILLA

The two of you should avoid too short hairdos, most especially chin-length bobs that are absolutely straight. Sandy can wear a slightly longer bob cut but she should make sure it has soft curls to give her face an illusion of width and give the appearance of a shorter chin. As for you, Jilla, go with long straight hair that's sleek and shiny as this will add more length to the face and give the appearance of more chin.

If you, girls, are going to tie your long tresses into ponytails, Sandy should fix it high at the crown (like a genie from "Arabian Nights," but not at the top of the head) while you should keep it low by the nape.'

For makeup tips: you should dust a pearlized or frosted cream or white-colored powder on your chin to bring it forward. A small trick I tried was smudging a medium-brown shadow on the dent between the lower lip and where the chin starts. This will make that valley appear deeper. Friends of mine who have prominent chins like Sandy shade that area with slightly deeper color foundation than the one that matches their skin tone (one that is too dark will only make your face look dirty or bruised). The aim is to make it appear like it receded, then apply loose powder on top to blend and set it with the rest of the face.

Remember: When touching up your shiny faces in the powder room, those oily areas tend to look more prominent, so you, Jilla, should take it easy on the pressed powder and should actually allow your chin to shine a bit while Sandy should always keep that area matte.

* * *

We are your readers from Cebu and still have your clipping on the "foot spa" article years back. Three of us had the chance to go to Manila and tracked down a branch of the salon you featured. Anyway, we loved the service and our feet looked and felt great. Problem is, we can't keep going to Manila just for that and the salon here that offers a similar service is not good. I was wondering if you know of any salon in Cebu that offers the same service and does a great job? We would really appreciate it because open-toe shoes look like they are here to stay. Thank you in advance.

JANET, ELISE, NENA, RIO AND JOANA

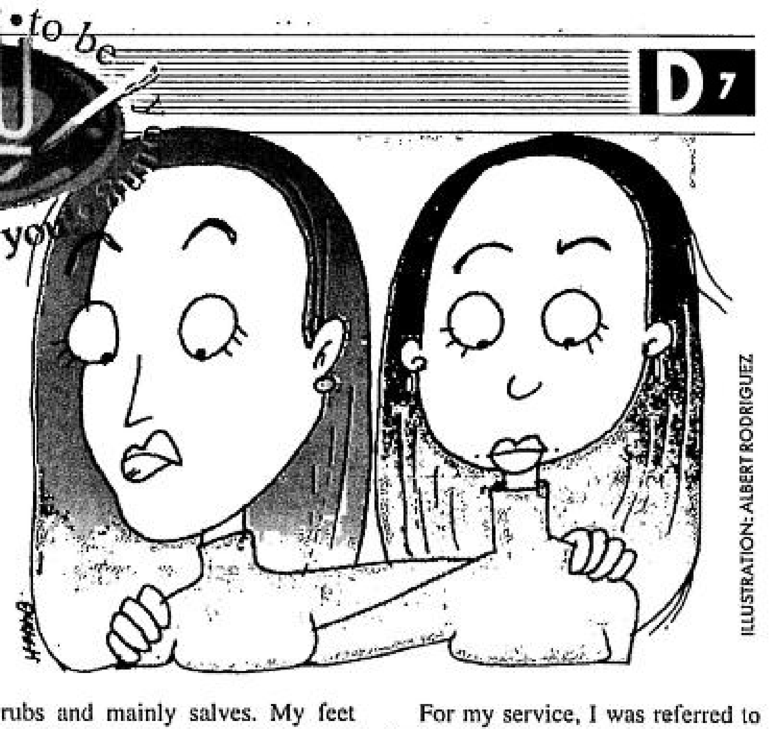


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

So sorry for taking so long to answer but it just so happens that it was my first time in Cebu last week. I did ask around, found and tried out one particular salon that came highly recommended. The place was Franzy Salon for Men and Women.

Their version of foot spa is called "pretty feet" and it yielded the same results as my Manila experience. I was very satisfied, to say the least. It included a pedicure, foot massage, scrubs and mainly salves. My feet needed it after extensive shopping and sightseeing.

Salon owner Shirley Young lived in the United States with her family for more than 10 years and learned the method there. She opened a small and cozy salon in Cebu to ensure personalized service, and trained her staff for "pretty feet."

For my service, I was referred to Judith Ordillano. Franzy Salon is at Unit G-05 North Road Plaza, Basak, Mandaue City, tel. 420-5356.

Note: For my other readers from Cagayan, Iloilo and Davao who are interested in foot spa treatments in their own city, I regret that I cannot recommend salons without first trying them out.

Between you and me

HERE'S your chance to tell your heartwarming story. Send us a Between You and Me card you received (from your best friend, significant other or a loved one) or planning to give someone (perhaps to propose, apologize or to simply say "Thanks for being the greatest friend.") Tell us why it means so much to you in 300 words or less. If your entry is chosen, you can win two cool Swatch watches!

Send the actual card to Filstar Distributors Corp., 3/F Team Pacific Building, 13 Jose Cruz Street, Ugong, Pasig City 1604.

Catch it here on the 2bU! section every Wednesday until May 16. Check out Joe D'Mango's "Love Notes" every Friday, 10 a.m., over Wave 89.1 as he reads your favorite Between You and Me cards, and on PDI's Sunday Lifestyle.

New game machines at Timezone

BE the first to play eight brand-new and exciting additions to the Timezone roster of game machines.

The Sega Strike Fighter invites players to pilot the super-advanced fighter plane via a three-screen flight role of the good guy. Another is Kart Duel, Namco's latest driving Kart simulator where the player competes with a friend. Meanwhile, Ninja Assault has the player battling it out with ninjas in this latest Namco-designed shooting simulator.

Art Truck invites players to experience driving their own 18-wheeler trucks across various roads and terrains. In Police 911, the player gets to play the role of a policeman in an innovative Konami-designed motion-detecting simulator where game action is so realistic the player has to dodge and weave to avoid incoming fire.

Another exciting game is the Star Wars Episode 1 where the player can navigate his own pod racer through various alien landscapes. In Sega's Marine Fishing, the player puts his fishing cap on to catch his fair share of sharks, blue marlins and other game fishes in the high seas.

Catch all these exciting games at Timezone centers in Glorietta 4, Glorietta 2 and Greenbelt in Makati, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu. Soon to open is Timezone at the Starmall in Mandaluyong City.

COTTON USA
COTTON USA
MOVING spirits

Join the Quest for the

We need 3 tykes and 3 teens who are passionate, all revved up, and ready to change the world!

These driven, enthusiastic young Filipinos must be really into one of the following:

• sports • visual arts • performing arts • intellectual/leadership pursuits • information technology • civic advocacies

and part of these age groups:
MOVING SPIRITS TEENS (aged 13 - 19)
and
MOVING SPIRITS TYKES (aged 5 - 12)

Join now! The hunt is on the move!

In cooperation with: CLOSE-UP BREEZE POWER BREEZE POWERMATIC

mechanics

PHASE 1:
THE SEARCH...
1. To join the "Quest for the COTTON USA Moving Spirits," secure an entry form from "COTTON USA Moving Spirits" flyers and print ads published in major dailies and magazines. Entry forms may also be obtained at selected Beagle House, Bossini, Blues Bros., Cartoon Studio, Habitat, and Jag outlets. (Photocopied forms may also be used.)
2. Candidates must be single, Filipino citizens, male or female, aged 5 - 19, and of good moral character. They must be residents of, or have a permanent address in, GMA and Luzon.
3. Candidates must be involved in any of the following pursuits:
• SPORTS - i.e. skateboarding, bungee jumping, gymnastics, in-line or ice skating, martial arts, mountain or rock climbing, etc.
• VISUAL ART - i.e. graphic art, painting, sculpture, animation, fashion or interior design, body art, etc.
• PERFORMANCE ART - i.e. dance, music, drama, mime
• INTELLECTUAL/LEADERSHIP PURSUITS - i.e. entrepreneurs, club or org leaders, debaters, writers, etc.
• INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - i.e. computer techies, internet buffs, PC gamers, etc.
• CIVIC ADVOCACIES - i.e. charity, ecology, religious, anti-drugs, etc. advocates
4. Fill in entry form and attach the following: a) a brief resume of the candidate describing him/herself and his/her pursuit/s from the above list; b) one (1) 3R close-up colored photograph; and c) photocopy of birth certificate.
5. Enclose in a long white envelope, and mail it to the "Quest for the COTTON USA Moving Spirits" at Strategic Edge, Inc., 501 Greenbelt Mansion, 106 Perea Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1200; or drop in drop boxes located at the same address.
6. There will be two categories: MOVING SPIRITS TYKES, for kids aged 5 - 12; and MOVING SPIRITS TEENS for those aged 13 - 19.
7. All entries must be in by April 15, 2001, 6 PM.
8. A panel of judges will pre-screen submitted entries and choose twelve (12) semi-finalists each for the TEENS and the TYKES category on April 16, 2001, 10 am at Strategic Edge, Inc., 501 Greenbelt Mansion, 106 Perea Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1200. The twenty-four (24) semi-finalists will be notified through phone and registered mail to come to the Strategic Edge, Inc., office on April 19, 2001 at 10 AM for a personal interview by the judges.
9. Criteria for judging is as follows:
• SELECTED PURSUIT & INVOLVEMENT - 40%
The uniqueness, importance and aspect of contestant's pursuit in either SPORTS, VISUAL ART, PERFORMANCE ART, INTELLECTUAL/LEADERSHIP PURSUITS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, or a CIVIC ADVOCACY. The skill the contestant has developed in his/her chosen pursuit, and the length of time he/she has been engaged in such.
• WIT / INTELLIGENCE - 30%
How well the contestant fares in the question-and-answer portion before the panel of judges. How well he/she can express him/herself, how well he/she thinks on his/her feet. His/her knowledge of things beyond his/her selected pursuit.
• PERSONALITY & CHARM - 30%
How pleasant, humorous and likeable the contestant is. How friendly, open and interesting he/she is.
10. Prizes will be awarded after the judging.
11. The judges will choose the twelve (12) finalists, six (6) for the TEENS category and six (6) for the TYKES category. The finalists will each receive the following prizes:
TEENS (6):
• Clothes from COTTON USA licensees
• P5,000. Gift Certificate from Tower Records
• Sony Discman
• P 15,000 cash
• Unilever Gift Pack worth P2,500.
TYKES (6):
• Clothes from COTTON USA licensees
• P5,000. Gift Certificate from Toy Kingdom
• Casio M-120 49-key Musical Organ
• P 15,000 cash
• Unilever Gift Pack worth P 2,500.
12. 20% tax for prizes in excess of P10,000, will be shouldered by Unilever Philippines.
13. Employees of Cotton Council International, COTTON USA licensees, Unilever Philippines and their advertising and PR agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from becoming candidates in the quest.
Control Measures:
1. All entries received shall be dropped in a sealed drop box in the custody of Ms. Neri Balais of Strategic Edge, Inc., 501 Greenbelt Mansion, 106 Perea Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1200.
2. A DTI representative will be present upon opening of the box and during the pre-screening and selection of finalists.
3. The selection committee will be composed of representatives from Breeze, Close-Up, and Cotton Council International.
4. All semi-finalists will be notified by phone and mail two (2) days before the interview schedule. Absence during the panel interview automatically disqualifies the candidate.

See posters and flyers for the rules of the hunt.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0355. Series of 2001.

That's the spirit.

Stay tuned for phase 2...

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PDI

FOOT SPA REVIEWS

A glorious and sensual experience

THE FEET.

They say this is the most ignored body part. We go to great extent to make sure our face is more than a sight to behold. We slather ourselves with all kinds of body lotion and oil just so we look extra dewy and glowing. We take all sorts of vitamins so that our health in general manages to survive even the hottest of the summer heat.

Some people patiently paste those false lashes (every day!) and fake long nails—which by the way makes me want to ask, "Why? What happened to mascara and waiting for your nails to grow?" For crying out loud, some people purchase those colored contact lenses just so they can change the color of their eyes. We have no qualms about subjecting ourselves through the most painstaking and tedious of processes just so we can look good.

But unfortunately, we seem to forget to go the extra mile for the body part that registers the most mileage. Ironic isn't it? Your feet is the most abused and the most ignored. And yet did you know that most celebrities and personalities we have interviewed take a good look at the feet first, more than any other body part? All the male celebrities we have interviewed are certified foot fetishists. The foot, they say, says a lot about the person.

I bet no person in his or her right mind would want to be reputed as unkempt and unclean just because his or her feet are slightly not so neat.

Thank God most salons nowadays offer foot spa treatments aside from the usual pedicure. Painting your toes is no longer enough, you know. Especially this summer—which means sandals and thongs season.

aaaaaaahhh!

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

BCBG

6750, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, tel. 812-4590

I am literally on my toes all the time. I absolutely love to wear stilettos and high-heeled boots. If the heels are not at least two inches then I think twice about buying a pair of shoes. I admit, it's sheer agony (at times) but hey, I'm a girl—the things I do to look good are sometimes torture for other people. To make it worse, I spend my week running around, juggling my schedule that I think I should be wearing running shoes instead.

Anyway, I was in desperate need for a foot pampering—foot massage, pedicure, the works—last week. So off I went to BCBG to get a foot spa.

Ms Neneng was assigned to do my foot spa. She led me to a secluded corner of the salon and offered me a glass of iced tea and a couple of reading materials. Then she brought a metal basin filled with soap and hot (tolerable) water, and asked me to soak my feet. When I asked her why there was a need to soak my feet, she said this was to soften the dead cells and the cuticles.

It was a good 10 minutes before she asked me to remove my feet and wiped it with a really soft towel. She put my feet up (and believe me, just the act of raising my feet up was already bliss) and applied a liberal amount of Ms. Walker Foot Polish—a foot scrub with a hint of menthol. Ms Neneng started to massage my feet—I told her to put a lot of pressure not only to scruff away the dead cells but also to make my feet feel really good.

I have a high threshold of pain—I wear heels all the time, remember? Boy, Ms Neneng must have read my mind. It was pure heaven as she kneaded, stroked and stretched the soles and toes of my feet. She did ask me from time to time if I was still okay. More Ms Neneng, more, I said. Being massaged by real hands is way better than the foot spa machine (sorry Pam!).She massaged my feet vigorously that the foot polish was almost dried up by the time she was done with me. No kidding, I did feel that the skin of my feet was peeled off—excellent!

After that, she washed and dried my rejuvenated feet. Then she literally smothered my feet with cool mentholated lotion and massaged not only my feet but even went up to my knees, calves and back to my feet.

Afterward, she gave me a pedicure and a manicure as well. Thanks to her, I now know that my *suking manicurista* has been doing injustice to my poor nails. All in all, it cost me P500-600 for the foot spa, pedicure and manicure and P100 for tip.

BCBG has become heaven here in the metropolis, if only for their glorious foot spa. I really hope and pray I win the lottery so I can hire someone to give me foot spa every day. If this wish comes true, I don't even have to meet or search for Mr. Right. *Jules Alcantara*

Tips 'n Toes Sculptured Nails Salon

5/L Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, tel. 635-9824

The past week had been stressful, to say the least. I needed a little pampering. That Saturday afternoon was the perfect time for a foot spa treatment. I made my way up to the fifth floor of Megamall's Building A and headed straight for Tips 'N Toes for my 5 p.m. appointment.

The salon's friendly staff welcomed me as I entered their glass door. I could smell the faint odor of acetone as I was led to one of the six stations in the well-lit room. I sat down and started reading my copy of Time.

Just moments later, Nora, the woman who had been assigned to me, set down a contraption—which I later on found out was called a foot bubble roller massager—and asked me to put both feet in it. She turned a switch and the machine started to purr. I sank deep into my seat, enjoying immensely. She left me in that blissful state for minutes.

I remember thinking, "I want to have one of these at home." Nora returned and set the machine on high, making its vibrations stronger.

After that massage treatment, my feet felt tender. Nora sat down in front of me and took my left foot while the other remained in the massager. She carefully removed my metallic lavender nail polish. She put lotion on my legs and started to massage my calves. It was so good I had to stifle a moan. Nora said she felt tension in my calves and gave me advice on how to take care of my legs. She kneaded the tension away. After the lotion, she applied foot scrub on my feet—a bluish-green paste with little red grains and started to rub to remove old skin cells. When this was done, she rinsed it away and repeated the whole process on my left foot. Sheer heaven.

She used a metal object (which scared me at first, since I have low, low tolerance for pain) to scrape away the dry skin on my feet—even on the pads of my toes. Don't worry, it's not as painful as it sounds. It's actually very ticklish. Then Nora used a pumice stone to continue rubbing, including between the toes. She dried my feet and legs with a towel and to my disappointment, took away the foot bubble roller massager. (I swear, I'm gonna look for one.)

Nora coated my feet with green gunk, very similar to your common facial mask, and left it to dry. It smelled faintly of mints. She rinsed it and spread wax on my feet and rinsed it off, too, after some minutes. Then, she spread blue gel on my legs and rubbed it in. It smelled like menthol and left my legs feeling cool (Not "cool" like, "You're cool, dude," but cool *cool*).

It was time for my pedicure. Nora was very gentle—it was painless. The massage continued while she did my nails.

Tips 'N Toes has a wide variety of nail polish colors available. They have an awfully large collection of pink nail polish, from the palest to the most shocking. I chose a dark bluish purplish color. Pink isn't really my thing.

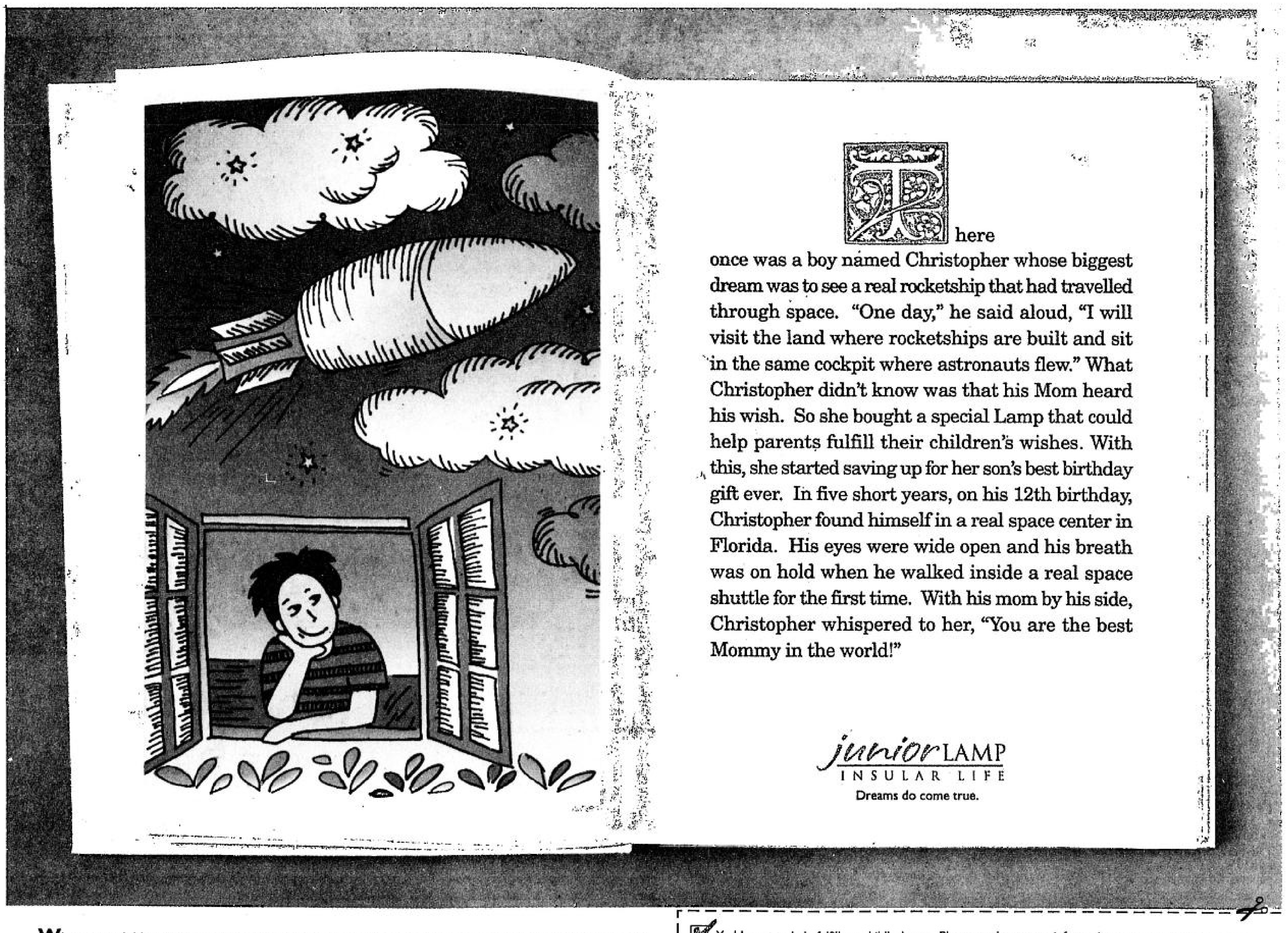
You may order food and drinks from Area Café while enjoying your treatment. I chose not to. Tiramisu while having my feet massaged actually sounded good. But then, I remembered: "Too much pleasure can kill you."

You can either read magazines or listen to the techno music they're playing while they work on your feet. Unfortunately, the music later on moved to a disco version of Celine Dion's "All By Myself." Thank God I was enjoying myself too much to start griping.

If your feet have calluses, Nora said foot spa treatments are a must twice a month. But if your feet are soft, one treatment a month will do.

I loved it. Even hours after the treatment, my legs were still tingling and still smelled faintly of menthol.

It's not exactly inexpensive at P555 (plus tip, of course) but I can say that it's worth it. The foot spa treatment was an enjoyable and almost sensual experience. I am definitely going back. *Pam Pastor*


There once was a boy named Christopher whose biggest dream was to see a real rocketship that had travelled through space. "One day," he said aloud, "I will visit the land where rocketships are built and sit in the same cockpit where astronauts flew." What Christopher didn't know was that his Mom heard his wish. So she bought a special Lamp that could help parents fulfill their children's wishes. With this, she started saving up for her son's best birthday gift ever. In five short years, on his 12th birthday, Christopher found himself in a real space center in Florida. His eyes were wide open and his breath was on hold when he walked inside a real space shuttle for the first time. With his mom by his side, Christopher whispered to her, "You are the best Mommy in the world!"

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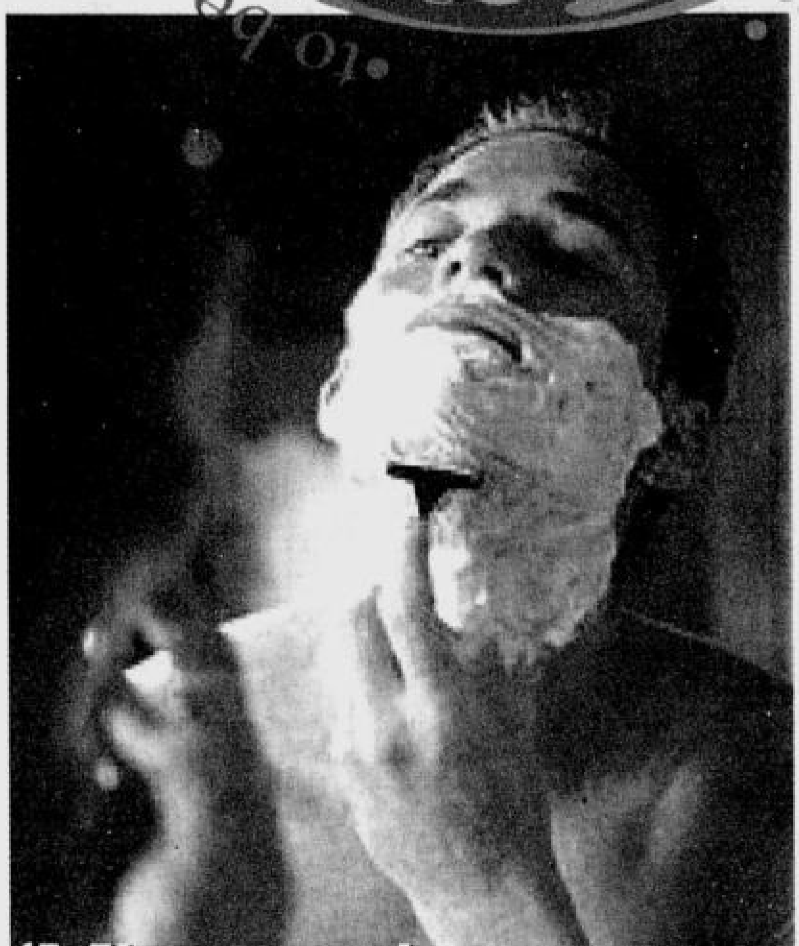

'Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of us all?' 'Pare, siyempre you!'

Boys will be boys? Look again. They're beginning to be as fussy about their looks as girls

BY GILES IVAN AQUINO AND HAROLD JASON DOPLITO

SO, you think women are the only species who are slaves to vanity? You believe that there is no such thing as the male *kikay* kit and that there is no need for men to slather themselves with beauty products? Now, it's time to update your thinking and reevaluate your beliefs. It's time to inspect your little brother's bag or your boyfriend's car hood. You may just be surprised with the stuff you can find in them.

However, there is no need to write to Dr. Margie Holmes and ask about ways to cope with their gayness. They are not gay (but then, who knows). Maybe they really just want to take care of their bodies, much like the way you take care of yours. Or they just want to look good so that you won't be ashamed of them. Or they are simply vain, and there's nothing you can do about that.

For whatever reason these products may be of use, vanity stuff are just some of the necessities, as well as habits, that guys find worth clinging on, keeping or hiding.

De-stressing tresses

"I can never go out without a hair gel," swears 17-year-old

MIRROR/ p.E2

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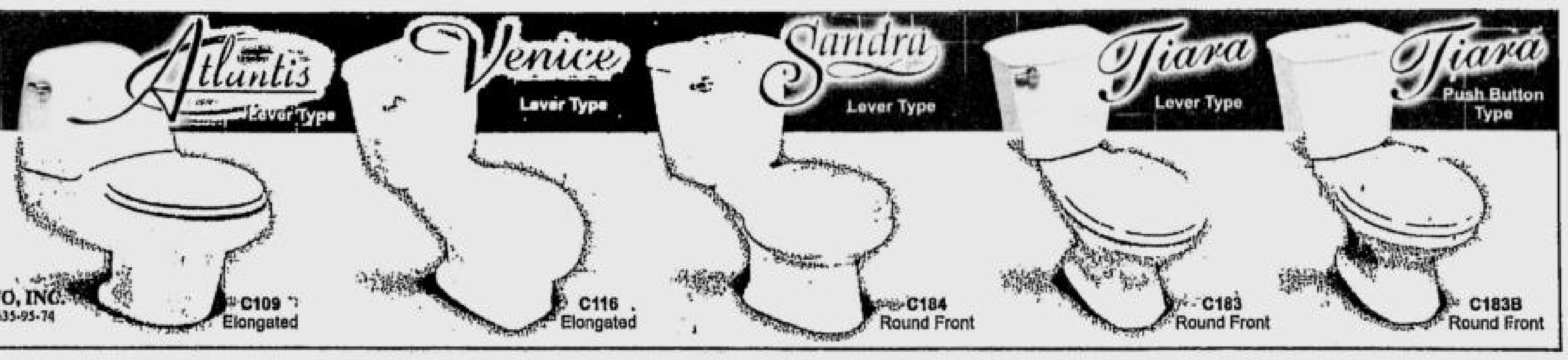

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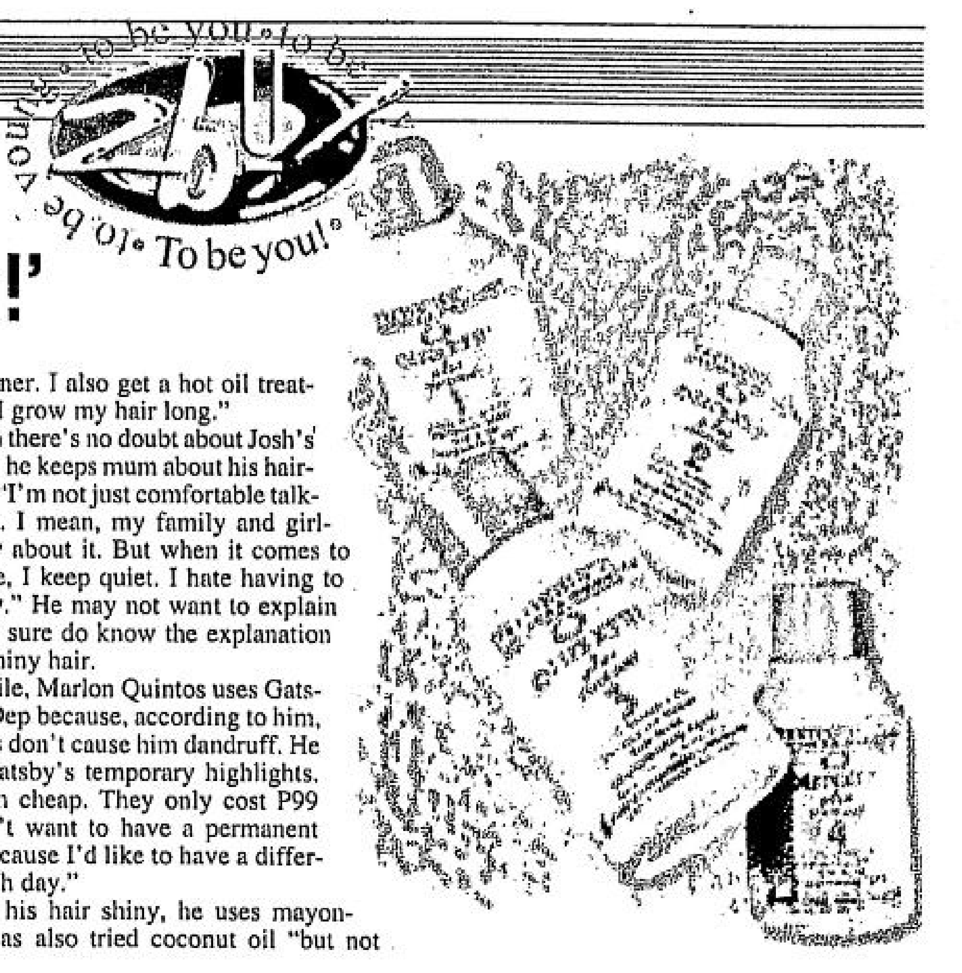
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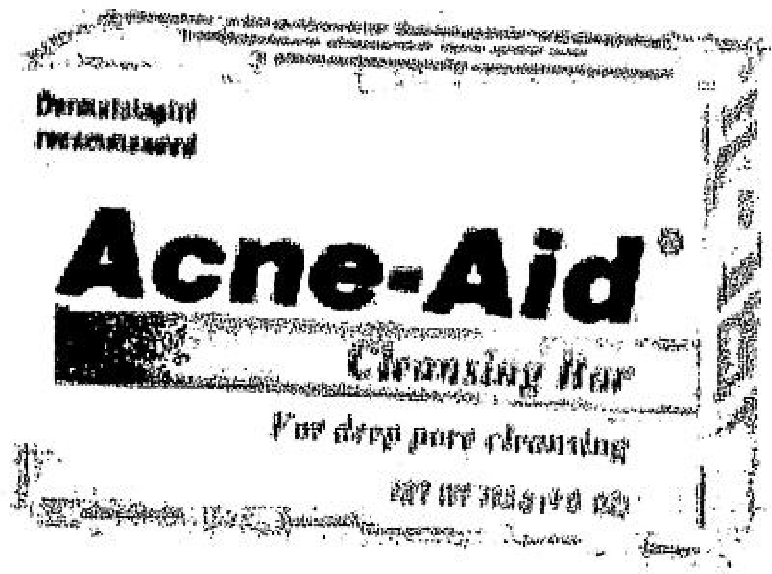

(From page E1)

Luis. "It helps me avoid a bad-hair day sides, it's probably the widest beauty pr used by guys. I mean, there's nothing e rassing in letting everyone know that I us gel."

Today, almost every guy sticks to hair look good. As Luis says, it has become a item in a guy's morning habit. In fact, he the use of hair gel simplifies the need one's hairdo. Instead of having to blow-(brush their hair after their morning bath, al have to do is squeeze some gel on their then smack it on their heads, and then perfection. For just that they are almost re go. Almost.

"I'm sure my habit can be totally clas under vanity," admits Josh who wouldn't to reveal his full name. "Aside from gel, use St. Ives' Hair Repair and Ascend's L on Conditioner. I also get a hot oil treatment when I grow my hair long."

Although there's no doubt about Josh's masculinity, he keeps mum about his haircare habits. "I'm not just comfortable talking about it. I mean, my family and girlfriend know about it. But when it comes to other people, I keep quiet. I hate having to explain why." He may not want to explain why but we sure do know the explanation for Josh's shiny hair.

Meanwhile, Marlon Quintos uses Gatsby gel and Dep because, according to him, these brands don't cause him dandruff. He also uses Gatsby's temporary highlights. "I find them cheap. They only cost P99 each. I don't want to have a permanent highlight because I'd like to have a different look each day."

To keep his hair shiny, he uses mayonnaise. He has also tried coconut oil "but not lately," he says sheepishly. "I've got short hair."

Zit zappers

For the face, 21 year-old JP recommends St. Ives' facial scrub. "I particularly like their Apricot Scrub. It has a nice smell unlike other brands. I also find it very effective. It exfoliates my skin really well, without hurting my face or turning it red."

JP has had a long battle with pimples and he found the facial scrub a good tool for the pesky pimples. AJ Matela has the same thing to say about the product. "I use it because it helps prevent pimples and it maintains my soft skin. However, some people find its odor too strong. What I like about it is that it has microscrubs, much like Pond's facial wash, and this makes me feel good."

"*Kalamansi* also prevents pimples *daw*. I have tried it already. You need to extract and scrub the juice directly to your face. Leave for a few minutes then wash it off," AJ proceeds. "But be careful though, *medyo mahapdi* and *makati*," he warns.

If you're not into pasting your face with various fruits to achieve flawless skin, then maybe Brevoxyl is just the thing for you. Ronald of UST shares, "I use the one by Stiefel. It's an ointment that is very effective for pimples. Aside from that, I use Master by Eskinol together with a vitamin called Dalacin. Those take care of my face."

Apart from these products, most guys depend on Extraderm, Acne-Aid by Stiefel and The Body Shop's Tea Tree Oil for exfoliating and pimple busting. For oil control, they depend on Gatsby's oil control film.

Body matters

Misconception: Guys always think about female bodies. Well, almost always. Otherwise, they think about their own hygiene. For their bodies, guys not only use soap and water, but also a lot of other things.

"I prefer shower gels over soaps," Marlon shares. "Gatsby's feels really soothing and refreshing. Sometimes I find that soaps dry my skin compared to shower gels. They're more moisturizing." He also uses body lotion ("whatever my mom buys!") for tender, smooth skin.

Deodorants have now taken a twist, and guys can find more options than the conventional roll-ons. Old Spice is quite popular these days, especially because guys are able to connect with its commercial. "I especially like the scent," confesses Alan. "It's very masculine. Aside from that it's very dry, so there's no icky feeling that one usually gets from a roll-on."

If they are not concerned about smelling good, they're concerned about looking good. That explains why some guys have shaved extensively for aesthetic reasons. It's because some girls like guys who are smooth-shaven, or who aren't hairy, and so guys give in to those demands. And we're not just talking about moustaches and goatees. Underarms and legs are the other body parts that are threatened by Mr. Gillette.

So, girls, the next time you see a cute guy walk near you, think again. He must have spent a good 30 minutes... on his hair alone!

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Beauty contest boo-boos

By Jules Alcantara

IT'S summer again. Heat rashes and the droves of people racing to the nearest body of water (i.e. the beach, the pool, the biggest *batya*) to cool themselves from the blistering heat are common sights.

It is also beauty contest season.

Come to think of it, we as a people are certified beauty contest junkies. I have friends who can answer beauty contest trivia while in the deepest of slumbers. They answer comprehensively, I should stress: They know the details from the name of the winner to the members of her court and the exact date and venue when she won. Even ex-President Erap was known to have taken time out from his "busy" schedule to watch Miriam Quiambao almost grab the Miss Universe crown two years ago.

All year round we are bombarded by beauty contests on television (Calendar Girl, Teevee Babe, etc.) and this preoccupation grows to a fever pitch during the dog days of summer. Practically every street, barangay or village in the country has some kind of beauty contest happening. Even children are not spared.

And the most memorable part? Those responses that border from inane and absurd to downright idiotic and tragic from the beauty contestants. No offense meant, but I swear these answers brought tears to my eyes.

Q: If you only had one of the five senses, what would you want to have?

A: Uhm... the sense of sight.

Q: And why is that?

A: Uhm... because, because... ahh... I have beautiful eyes.

Only goes to show that having a good pair of peepers does not guarantee you have something between those ears. All together, let's pay tribute to these infamous lines and bat our eyelashes five times. Beautiful eyes *naman d'yan*!

* * *

Q: How would you spend your last 24 hours on earth?

A: I will spend it in church to forgive my sins.

Thank heavens, the Supreme Being is merciful enough to ignore grammatical and syntactical errors. Not to mention awful diction.

* * *

***Eddie Mercado:** What are your plans after the Binibining Pilipinas?*

***Candidate:** I will continue my educational insurance plans.*

Hmmm, this makes me think your parents wasted their time on paying those expensive monthly premiums.

* * *

***Emcee:** Ohhh... so you live not far from here. So, how did you come here? Did you walk or did you ride?*

***Candidate:** Uhmmm... of course "did you ride."*

Of course, *sabi ko nga eh.*

* * *

***Judge:** What do you think is the woman's greatest advantage?*

***Candidate:** The women of greatest advantage is that giving birth because and also they could be equal to man. Thank you.*

Huh? No words will ever be able to aptly describe the laughter and tears that this line induced. This is the stuff legends are made of. Most of my friends know this line. By heart.

* * *

***Rita Gomez:** Here's your question, hija. Are you still a virgin?*

***Maria Isabel Lopez:** If I say I still am, can I bring home the crown tonight?*

***Rita:** Good answer!*

***Maria Isabel:** What about you, Ma'am, are you still a virgin?*

***Rita:** Hija, I have five children with five different fathers. What do you call that, Immaculate Conception?*

All bets were off, or at least everyone transferred allegiance to Maria Isabel Lopez as soon as this part of the pageant was over. Oh, how I really wish and pray that we would have more of this sparkling verbal repartee in the beauty contests to come. This is the kind of wit that we desperately need. This is the kind of "funny" that is most welcome.

* * *

From Calendar Girl contest:

Q: To which scenic spot in the Philippines will you bring a tourist to entertain him?

A: To the Bocaue Rice Terraces.

There are rice terraces in Bulacan now? How come no one told me?

* * *

***Host:** Which of your assets do you think sets you apart from the rest of the contestants?*

***Candidate:** Well, in my opinion, the asset that sets me apart from all the other contestants is my intelligent.*

From your answer, we can sense that you are indeed overflowing with it. Not!

* * *

From "She's Got the Look" contest:

***Contestant:** Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen! I am Carmelita -------. I come from Pasay City and I want to be a medicine!*

Oh, okay, so what kind of medicine exactly? For headache, fever or flu? I sure hope it's for memory loss, because if I were you, dearie, I'd want to forget this faux pas. For life.

* * *

***Joey de Leon:** What's your favorite motto?*

***Contestant:** (Thinks hard) Can you repeat the question, please?*

***Joey:** Okay, what is your favorite motto?*

***Contestant:** (Tries to delay her answer by smiling) Actor or actress, sir?*

***Joey:** (Laughs a bit and tries hard not to embarrass the contestant by explaining the question) You seem to be fond of slum books. Remember when you were still a kid you had a favorite motto like, "Time is gold"? That is a sample of a motto.*

***Contestant:** Ahh... sir, my favorite motto is, "Time is gold."*

I'm sure this was one moment where the tables were turned for Joey de Leon. Put all the brilliant comic writers in the country together in one room and I bet they would never come up with something like this. Real people are indeed stranger (and funnier) than sitcom characters.

* * *

***Host:** What is your motto in life?*

***Candidate:** Uhmmm...(Smiles)... Hhaanesty ees d best faaleecy.*

I swear I actually heard a Bb. Pilipinas candidate say this. Eeeewww! The pageant host should have insisted on doubling his talent fee upon hearing this response. You'd have to pay one big time to keep a straight face after that!

* * *

***Judge:** What do you think is the biggest environmental problem of our country today? And what can you do about it?*

***Contestant:** Our biggest environmental problem is our garbage problem. It is nice to live in a beautiful and clean place for a bright look for our future.*

All of a sudden, the future doesn't look as bright. So much for the change in leadership.

* * *

***Judge:** Do you think it is proper to have population control? Why?*

***Contestant:** I believe that it is proper to have population control, especially now that population explosion is happening. They should use contraptions especially the young because their libido is high.*

How about if I strap you to your contraption?

* * *

***Host:** What is the significant difference between the Filipina then and now?*

***Contestant:** The signipicant difference is... Ahhh... can you repeat the question?*

Utang na loob naman! This is why there became a need to invent words such as "exasperating" and "idiot" and other synonyms.

* * *

***Judge:** If you win and become popular, would you consider running for public office?*

***Contestant:** Yes, because as a nurse I can use my knowledge to serve the country.*

Okay, so to be honest, compared to other booboos, this isn't so bad. But it does make you cringe, right? And cry... and curse. Come to think of it, this is why up to this very day we are still a Third World nation.

* * *

***Judge:** Would you rather be beautiful but not too smart or smart but not too beautiful?*

***Contestant:** Umm... Ahhh... What is the question? (Judge repeats the question) Ahhh... Ummm... Quiet please! Ahhh... Ummm... I would choose to be beautiful, because being beautiful is natural. Being smart, you can learn that. You can learn from a lot of things, you can learn from... ahhh... experience. You can learn from... ummm... ahhh... a lot of things.*

You know, if I do write down what I really feel about this line, I put myself at risk of being sued for libel. So I'll just keep quiet. Ruminate on whether I want to beautiful or smart. And spend my time searching for these "a lot of things."

And while I'm at it, I think it's also time I look for my bottle of White Flower. My tummy really hurts.

E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com

Would you . . .

(From page E4)

ful to other people. Being smart is important. It never fades.—**Sarah**

I prefer to be smart because for me, inner beauty is what counts.—**Grace, 17**

Smart. When people have brains, they have direction. What is beauty if the brain is empty?—**Rhowena**

Smart. Even if you don't have a pretty face, you can be rich when you use your brain.—**Iyang**

I think I'd choose to be smart. Knowledge can bring you a lot of things. You don't have to be beautiful to be liked by someone.—**Epy**

I'd like to be smart. Beauty fades unlike knowledge, which is forever.—**Bing, 22**

I'd rather be smart, of course. If I'm smart enough, I'll attract the right kind of men.—**Preventer_mind**

Smart. If you're beautiful and dumb, you will not survive [in] this world.—**Yukishiro_Tomoe**

I'd rather be smart. Beauty will only make a good first impression while your brains make a lasting mark.—**Music_goddess**

Smart, because it will lead you to success.—**RV3**

I'd rather be smart. Being smart can make you beautiful.—**Byron Angelo Soriano**

I'd rather be smart. Beauty is like an orgasm. You can fake it.—**Pachxx**

I would rather be beautiful. Beauty is boundless.—**Kromy**

I'd rather be smart because being beautiful is boring.—**Nell**

I'd rather be smart. If you're smart, *daig mo pa ang maganda o guwapo sa diskarte.*—**Edwin**

I'd choose to be a smart than beautiful because I want to become a scientist someday.—**Wendel**

Beautiful. I like beautiful girls.—**Jerry**

I'd choose to be smart because it's something no one can ever take away from me. It's my shield from people who use people.—**May L13**

I choose to be smart because you can be beautiful instantly because of technology. Being smart is natural.—**Zoe**

I'd rather be smart. If you're smart, you'll do good in your job, have lots of money, then hire the best surgeon who can make you the drop-dead gorgeous dudette that you've been wishing you were.—**Shy, 27**

Beauty or brains? We all have brains, you know, but not everyone is aesthetically appealing. I know I have both but since I already have the brain, the wits and the intelligence, I'd go for beauty. Maybe more height.—**Aimee**

I'd go for brains. Why? Because if I have brains, I'll have a bigger chance to succeed in life.—**Ina**

I prefer to be smart. Being smart is cool.—**Alfredo del Rosario**

Smart. If you're smart you can be anything you want to be. You'll be respected and people will gravitate toward you. If you're smart enough, you'll know how to make yourself look good.—**Joyce Laforteza**

I'd rather be smart. It's a great advantage. Having a brain can actually make you look beautiful.—**Larry Rojales**

I would definitely want to be smart because beautiful people are a dime a dozen. Being smart gives you depth and the potential to contribute something. Being beautiful, on the other hand, would just merely elicit compliments and admiration, at most.—**17**

I'd rather be smart than beautiful because I believe that to be beautiful inside is what matters and having brains is a big advantage. Appeal is also more powerful than looks. Being smart is a lot more useful than appearance.—**16**

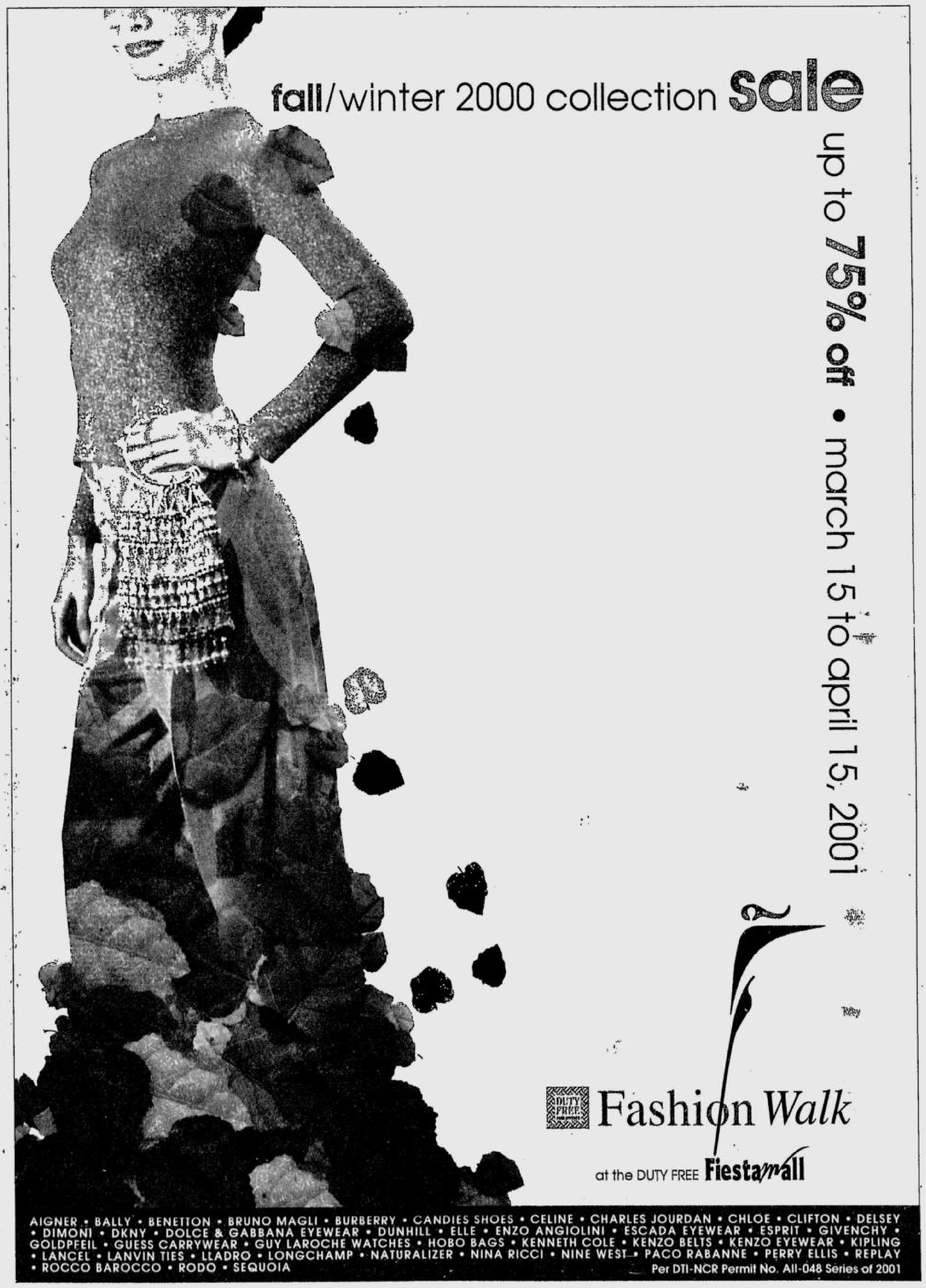
I would rather be smart. With my sharp mind I can come up with a creative way to make myself look good. I believe confidence comes from having a good brain rather than a good face.—**15**

I'd rather be smart. No one can take that away from you.—**Hessen Blanquisco**

I'd rather be smart than beautiful. Being smart will automatically bring out the natural beauty in me.—**Jack Javier**

Who says I can't have both?—**Nikki, 17**

Beautiful. I want to get rich *agad.*—**Marie**



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AII-048 Series of 2001

Would you rather be smart or beautiful?

THIS question has created quite a stir, especially after one of the Binibining Pilipinas contestants botched up her answer—big time. "I choose to be beautiful because beauty is natural and smart can be learned." (Or something like that.) Allow us to roll our eyes for the nth time.

We asked the Scene Team participants in Megamall last Thursday to Sunday to drop by the 2bU! booth and answer this question (and win prizes, too).

Here are their answers—you choose the winner:

I'd choose to be smart. That would last my whole lifetime. Beauty would fade when wrinkles set in. Besides, intelligent people exude a different kind of beauty from within.—**Angel, 20**

I choose [to be] smart because beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Grrr! OA! Beauty is temporary.—**Debbie**

I'd rather be smart, it won't matter if I'm not beautiful. If I'm smart I can rule the world!—**Cely, 20**

I choose to be smart. Beauty can be changed by money and time.—**Girl**

I would rather be myself. I'm smart and beautiful at the same time.—**Kikay, 20**

I'd rather be smart. Wish *ko lang*.—**Sister, 20**

I'd rather be smart because I'm already beautiful!—**Grace**

I'd rather be smart because I can be beautiful if I'm smart.—**Camal**

I'd rather be smart because I already have the looks.—**Allan**

I'd choose to be smart. Smart is more interesting.—**Jonina**

Smart.—**Sharah, 19**

Smart.—**Kat, 20**

Smart.—**Caca, 19**

Smart.—**Carmela, 19**

Beautiful.—**Jay, 20**

Smart.—**Joy**

Smart.—**Cindy, 24**

I'd rather be smart. "What is essential is invisible to the naked eye," according to the "Little Prince."—**Claire**

I'd rather be smart. Beauty comes from within. If you're smart you'll know and appreciate that more.—**Merry Cerlas**

I'd rather be smart. Beauty is with[in] me, and I can improve myself in many ways. If you are smart, you'll know what to do.—**Jonah**

I'd rather be smart. I'm already beautiful. Kidding aside, beauty is superficial while intellect is yours forever.—**JR Rosales**

I would prefer to be smart so I could write meaningful and interesting articles for 2bU! that would inform and educate my peers. I believe that what is within a person matters more than what is seen on the façade.—**Claire Agarme**

I'd rather be smart because smart people go places and are more successful.—**Michelle O.**

Smart.—**Mariel**

I'd rather be smart because I can be beautiful at the same time. It's all in the mind. Being smart is sexy.—**May Laxamana, 27**

I'd rather be smart than beautiful because looks are not really important when you're dealing with people. The most important thing is your brain. Without it, you're nothing. Beauty fades, knowledge remains.—**Meg Buted, 19**

I'd choose to be smart because this could lead me to achieve my goals in life. People today don't care if you're beautiful. What matters is you make sense and your mind works.—**Chin, 22**

I'd rather be smart because that makes you beautiful, too.—**Rose Ann, 18**

I'd rather be smart. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and being smart will not fade away.—**Cris, 18**

I choose to be smart. If you're smart, you can have everything.—**Michelle, 17**

I'd rather be smart. When I'm really, really smart, I can become rich. Rich enough to have my face and body fixed.—**Mickey**

Smart. Being smart is the best asset of a person.—**Pam, 17**

I'd rather have brains, man! Imagine talking to a beautiful woman who has nothing on her mind. Duh! Turn off, *di ba*?—**Meanne, UP Diliman**

I'd choose to be pretty because I'm smart already. Hehehe!—**Abbey, CEU**

I'd rather have brains. If you're smart you can carry yourself well and that will make you beautiful.—**Jyb, 21**

I choose to be smart. My confidence will make me beautiful. That's logical.—**Aan**

I prefer to be smart, because being smart is an inner beauty.—**Mae**

I would definitely prefer to be smart than beautiful. Why? As long as you project good vibes, you will be beauti-

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